DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

'Kerala's turn for BJP rule': Shah launches poll campaign

Arsenal roar past Portsmouth

Martinelli scores hat-trick in 4-1 win

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Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka.

Government of Karnataka
Department of Revenue &
Department of School Education & Literacy
And
Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board,
Kalaburagi

Venue : Yedrami Taluk, Jewargi Constituency, Kalaburagi District
Date : January 12, 2026
Time : 11:00 am

Shri D.K.Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka.

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge
Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, Rajya Sabha.

Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Shri Krishna Byregowda; Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, IT & BT and Kalaburagi District In-charge Minister, Shri Priyank Kharge; Hon'ble Minister for Planning and Statistics, Shri D. Sudhakar; and Chairman, KKRDB, Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh, during an official review meeting on the Praja Soudha developmental initiatives in the Kalyana Karnataka Region.

Hon'ble Minister for the School Education & Literacy, Shri Madhu Bangarappa; Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, Dr.Sharanaprakash R Patil; and Chairman, KKRDB, Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh, during an official review meeting on the educational initiatives under the Akshara Aavishkara programme in the Kalyana Karnataka Region.

New Praja Soudha Projects in Kalyana Karnataka region

₹163.55 Crore Investment
for construction of
New Praja Soudha Buildings
(Public Administrative Buildings)

Approval of 300 New Karnataka Public Schools in Kalyana Karnataka region

₹600-₹900 Crore Investment for construction of
300 New Karnataka Public Schools
200 Schools funded by KKRDB
100 Schools funded by the Education Department

Foundation stone laying is being undertaken for various developmental projects in Yedrami and Jewargi taluks, involving an expenditure of **₹879.16 Crore** across **96** works,

Extending Our Heartfelt Welcome To Everyone.

Merz on two-day visit to India to bolster trade, defence ties

NEW DELHI, PTI: Shoring up bilateral ties in trade, investment, critical technologies, and defence are set to be the focus of wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in Ahmedabad on Monday.

Friedrich Merz

As Merz's trip to India is taking place amid a fractious geopolitical environment, including the US's display of raw military strength to capture Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, the German leader and Modi are also likely to discuss pressing global challenges.

Merz's January 12-13 visit to India will be his first to Asia as the German Chancellor.

Ways to bring peace to Ukraine may also figure prominently in Modi-Merz talks.

The German leader will travel to Bengaluru after concluding his engagements in Ahmedabad.

In their talks, Modi and Merz are likely to deliberate on trade and investment ties, as New Delhi is looking at deepening economic engagement with Europe against the backdrop of Washington's 50% tariff on Indian goods, people familiar with the matter said.

DMK snubs Cong power-share demand, rejects coalition govt

DINDIGUL (TAMIL NADU), PTI: Ruling out scope for a coalition government, senior DMK leader and State Minister I Periyasamy on Sunday asserted that Chief Minister M K Stalin is firm on the stand against sharing power with allies.

Speaking to reporters here, Periyasamy, when asked on Tamil Nadu Congress's demand for share in power, he said it was the right of the grand old party to make that demand.

However, the DMK had never been in favour of such a proposition. "There had never been a coalition government," he said, adding the state had all along been helmed by the DMK on its own.

"There is no doubt about this stand of the party, there will be no coalition government and the chief minister is firm on this stand," the Rural Development Minister said.

Tamil Nadu Congress has revived its demand for a share in power if the DMK-led alliance wins the Assembly election due by March-April this year.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore had said recently that it was time to debate "share in power." CLP leader, Killiyoor (Kanyakumari district) legislator S Rajeshkumar had also batted for a coalition government.

Historians, politicians tried to 'whitewash' Somnath attacks: PM

'Forces that opposed temple reconstruction still active'

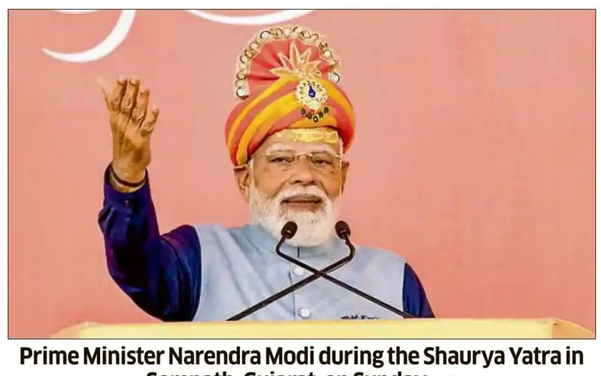
SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that historians and politicians had tried to "whitewash" the history of attacks on Gujarat's Somnath temple by terming them "ordinary plunder".

Forces that had opposed its reconstruction after Independence are still against it and India needs to remain alert to defeat them, Modi said during the 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv', held to mark 1,000 years of attack on the Somnath temple by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1026.

On his three-day visit to his home state, Modi had on Saturday evening offered prayers at the Somnath temple in Gir-Somnath district. On Sunday morning, after prayers, Modi took out a road show, which was branded as 'Shaurya Yatra', and later addressed a public gathering.

While addressing the public, Modi described 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv' as a "celebration of self-respect and a festival of historical glory" while underlining that it was an occasion "to strengthen our existence and identity".



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Shaurya Yatra in Somnath, Gujarat, on Sunday. PTI

The temple symbolises "strength, resistance, and tradition", Modi said. "Unfortunately, after independence, those with a mindset of slavery tried to distance themselves from such historic places. There were malicious efforts to erase that history," he said.

Modi said that "the heroes who protected the temple" were not given importance in history and "historians and politicians attempted to whitewash the history of attacks...(on the temple)".

"Books were written to cover up the religious fanaticism mindset by labeling it (attacks) as mere plunder," he said.

"The history of Somnath is not that of destruction and defeat but of victory and renewal. This is the cycle of time that fundamentalist invaders are now reduced to pages of history, but the Somnath temple still stands tall," Modi said.

Modi also claimed that "even today those forces are still active which had opposed the reconstruction of the temple".

"Today, instead of swords, other malicious methods are being used to conspire against the country. And that's why we must be vigilant and empower ourselves. We must stay united and defeat every force that is plotting to divide us," the prime minister added.

Congress' 100-day plan as Priyanka set for active UP role

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With elections in Uttar Pradesh just a year away, the Congress has signalled that senior leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is likely to play an active role, with the state unit set to announce a 100-day organisational programme and celebrate her birthday on a large scale on Monday.

Congress General Secretary and UP in-charge Avinash Pande has already issued directions to unveil the 100-day programme, which includes Constitution Samvad Rallies at 30 locations and MGNREGA protests. These will be announced at press conferences, followed by birthday celebrations.

This is the first time the UP unit will be celebrating Priyanka's birthday on a grand scale, with party sources indicating that the Wayanad MP, who has not taken any specific assignment in the organisation over the past three years, will be active in the state in the run-up to the Assembly elections.

Her appointment as chairperson of the Screening Committee for the Assam elections, along with the UP unit's birthday celebrations — seen as a reintroduction of Priyanka into the daily politics of Uttar Pradesh — are seen in party circles as her return to active organisational responsibilities.

Priyanka took charge as General Secretary in-charge of Uttar Pradesh when she entered politics in January 2019, but relinquished the post after the Congress' poor performance in the 2022 Assembly elections. The party had won just two seats in 2022, while in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls it secured six seats.

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

BIRTHDAY BASH

- Congress to blend birthday celebrations with poll strategy in UP
- Party plans 'Sewa aur Balidan' year-long programme
- To include Constitution Samvad Rallies and MGNREGA protests

The 100-day programme also comes against the backdrop of the Congress' decision to contest the MLC elections as well as the panchayat polls, amid indications that the Samajwadi Party may be rethinking its alliance with the Congress for the 2027 Assembly elections after the latter's poor show in Bihar.

While state unit has left it to the central leadership to decide on alliance, Pande signalled to the SP that the BSP could be inducted into the I.N.D.I.A bloc if Mayawati agrees.

UP Congress president Ajay Rai has already issued a circular to 20 district and city panels — including those in Ayodhya, Varanasi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Meerut — to hold press conferences on Priyanka's birthday to announce the 100-day programme.

X removes 3,500 obscene AI-generated posts

Admits mistake, assures compliance with Indian laws

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

DIGITAL OVERSIGHT

- Action comes amid pressure on X over content moderation, data safety, and Grok generating non-consensual sexually-explicit images
- Central government sent notice to X on Jan 2 to remove, 'obscene, nude, indecent, content' relation to obscene, indecent, vulgar, pornographic, paedophilic, or otherwise unlawful or harmful content.
- Put pressure after X's reply 'missed' key pieces of information

Days after the central government warned X over obscene content generated by its Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot Grok, the microblogging platform on Sunday reportedly admitted its mistake and removed approximately 3,500 pieces of content, in addition to deleting over 600 accounts.

Insisting that it would comply with Indian laws, the US-based social-media company is also said to have promised the Centre that it would not allow obscene images on its platform anymore.

Top Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) sources confirmed the content removal and account deletions.

The action came amid mounting pressure on X from governments worldwide over its content moderation, data safety, and its generative AI engine's non-consensual sexually-explicit images that flooded timelines over the last few days.

After the outrage, the central government on January 2 issued a notice to X Corp, asking it to remove and disable "obscene, nude, indecent, and sexually explicit content" from its platform.

The MeitY also asked the US-based social media firm to submit a detailed action-taken report (ATR).

The ministry said X was violating the regulatory provisions under the IT Act and other rules, particularly in

On January 4, X's "Safety" handle asserted that it takes action against illegal content on its platform, including child sexual abuse material (CSAM), by removing it, permanently suspending accounts, and working with local governments and law enforcement as necessary.

Following up

Although the initial reply was long and detailed, the ministry said it believed that it "missed" key information, including takedown details and specific action that had been taken on the Grok obscene-content issue, and to prevent it in future.

X has now admitted its mistake and told the government that it will comply with Indian laws and regulations, said the aforementioned ministry sources.

'Kerala's turn for BJP rule': Shah launches campaign

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Union Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah launched the party's campaign for the Kerala Assembly polls by invoking the Sabarimala issue and accusing both the Congress and the CPM of indulging in vote bank appeasement. Shah also expressed hope that Kerala will soon have a BJP chief minister.

Accusing both the CPM and the Congress in connection with the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple gold heist, the minister urged the Pinarayi Vijayan government to hand over the probe to a neutral agency.

"The CPM government has failed to protect both the gold of the Sabarimala temple and the faith associated with it. CPM ministers are also under the scanner in connection with the gold heist. Photographs of the accused with Congress leaders have surfaced. Loopholes have already been included in the FIR to benefit the accused. The BJP will launch an agitation across the state demanding that the probe be handed over to a neutral agency," Shah said while addressing the party's elected members in the Kerala local body polls on Sunday.

Shah, who also attended the BJP's core committee meeting, has chalked out strategies for the upcoming Assembly polls. Out of Kerala's 140 constituencies, the BJP is focusing on 40 seats where the party performed well in previous elections.

Shah said that the communist parties and the Congress were being eliminated across the country, and now it would be the BJP's turn in Kerala as well.

"The BJP has been steadily increasing its vote share in the state, which has now reached 20%. It will not take much time to raise it to 30 and then 40. The BJP has already formed governments in many states where the party previously had no presence. Now it is Kerala's turn. Today we have a BJP mayor in Thiruvananthapuram, and tomorrow we will have a BJP chief minister here," he said.

He alleged that the CPM-led Left Democratic Front and the Congress-led United Democratic Front would be unable to resist the communal agenda of the PFI, SDPI and Jamaat-e-Islami, as these groups constitute the vote banks of both fronts. "The LDF and UDF are indulging in appeasement politics. The BJP's policy is justice for all and appeasement for none," he claimed.

Union minister Amit Shah with Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar during a meeting with the newly elected party representatives of local bodies in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. PTI

POLL PUSH

- Amit Shah says BJP's rise in Kerala inevitable, promises CM after mayoral win
- BJP aims 40 seats in Assembly polls
- Party to launch statewide agitation over Sabarimala gold heist probe

Acknowledge health crisis: Cong slams Centre over air pollution

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress on Sunday asked the Modi government to acknowledge the public health crisis linked to air pollution and to increase the funding for the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) from Rs 10,500 crore for 131 cities to Rs 25,000 crore spread across the 1,000 most polluted towns in the country.

It said the NCAP, which currently addresses "only 4% of India's chronically polluted cities," has "actually become Notional Clear Air Programme" and needs a "thorough overhaul and reform".

Claiming that air quality is a "nation-wide, structural crisis" for which the government response is "exceedingly ineffective and inadequate", it also said that NCAP must adopt measurement of PM 2.5 levels as the yardstick, besides reorienting its focus to key sources of emissions-- vehicular emissions and industrial emissions.

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said that the study by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air has found that nearly 44% of Indian cities, that is 1,787 out of 4,041 statutory towns assessed, have chronic air pollution.

Kerala: Expelled Congress MLA Mamkootathil arrested in 3rd rape case

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Expelled Congress MLA Rahul Mamkootathil was arrested by the police late on Saturday night in a sexual assault case.

Mamkootathil was taken into custody from a hotel in his constituency, Palakkad, and taken to Pathanamthitta, where a fresh sexual assault case was registered.

He was later produced in court amidst strong protest by DYFI and Yuva Morcha activists, who demanded his resignation. He was remanded in judicial custody for two weeks.

Rahul Mamkootathil

The police report termed the MLA a habitual offender because he has been named as an accused in two sexual assault cases, in which he obtained interim relief from the court against arrest.

The police strongly objected to his bail, citing that he had gone into hiding earlier after a sexual assault case was registered against him.

The fresh case was learnt to be based on a complaint by a woman hailing from his home district, Pathanamthitta.

The woman accused him of forcing her to abort a pregnancy. She, however, preserved parts of the foetus. Hence, the police are expected to collect the MLA's DNA samples.

The woman, who is now abroad, gave a petition by email and also sent an audio statement regarding the alleged assault, which she said took place before Rahul became an MLA in 2024.

The woman alleged that Rahul sexually assaulted her at a hotel with a promise of marriage. She said she was brutally assaulted when she tried to resist, and that he even spat on her.

Later, he forced her to terminate the pregnancy and also threatened to harm members of her family, she said, adding that he also extorted cash from her.

Speaker A N Shamseer said he would seek legal opinion on whether Mamkootathil could continue as an MLA.

J&K: Suspected Pakistan drones sighted near LoC, IB

JAMMU, PTI: Security forces picked up movement of suspected drones in several forward areas along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Samba, Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday evening, officials said.

All the flying objects came from the Pakistan side, and returned after hovering over Indian territory for a few minutes, they said.

According to officials, security forces have launched a search operation on the ground after noticing the suspected drone activity in the forward areas.

Army troops guarding the Nowshera sector along the LoC in Rajouri, fired from medium and light machine guns on observing drone movement over Gania-Kalsian village around 6.35 pm, they said.

Another drone was noticed at Khabbar village in Teryath in Rajouri district at 6.35 pm. The flying object, with blinking light, came from the direction of Dharmsal village in Kalakote and moved further towards Bharakh, officials said.

A drone-like object with blinking light was also seen hovering for several minutes over Chak Babral village in Ramgarh sector of Samba around 7.15 pm, they said.

Another drone-like object was seen moving from the direction of Tain towards Topa in Mankote sector, located along the LoC, in Poonch district at 6.25 pm.

On Friday night, security forces recovered an arms consignment, allegedly dropped by a drone that originated in Pakistan, in Paloora village of Ghagwal near the IB in Samba district. The recovery included two pistols, three magazines, 16 rounds and a grenade, they added.

Kashmir records second consecutive low-snow 'Chillai Kalan'

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Kashmir is witnessing a second consecutive year of unusually low snowfall during 'Chillai Kalan', reinforcing concerns among scientists and residents that the Valley's winter patterns have undergone a long-term shift, with snowfall becoming increasingly unpredictable and poorly timed.

'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day harshest phase of winter beginning December 21, has traditionally been the backbone of Kashmir's snow calendar, ensuring sustained snow cover, groundwater recharge, and ecological stability. This winter, as with last year, more than half of the period has passed without any major snowfall across the plains and middle reaches, despite sub-zero temperatures and intermittent snow in higher altitudes.

A municipal worker makes his way through a frozen layer of water in interior Dal Lake as the mercury plunges to minus 5.7 degrees Celsius during Chillai Kalan in Srinagar. PTI

Climate experts note that the problem is not just reduced snowfall but a change in its timing. Over the past few decades, Kashmir has seen a steady decline in snowfall during 'Chillai Kalan', even as isolated heavy spells are increasingly recorded earlier in November or towards the fag end of winter in February. This shift has disrupted the natural rhythm of snow accumulation and melt that the Valley depends on.

Water shortages are being reported in areas where springs and small streams—largely sustained by winter snow—are showing reduced discharge. With two successive low-snow 'Chillai Kalan' periods, experts warn that groundwater recharge has been severely impacted, increasing the risk of water stress.

'Biggest mistake was not calling police': Couple loses Rs 14.85 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: Not informing the police was their biggest mistake, rued Om Taneja on Sunday after he and his wife lost Rs 14.85 crore following an incident of digital arrest.

Om Taneja (81) and his wife Indira (77), a doctor, were placed under digital arrest for over 15 days by cyber fraudsters who impersonated officials from telecom and law enforcement agencies.

The couple says not informing the police about their ordeal was a grave mistake. "The cyber fraudsters repeatedly threatened us with arrest and serious consequences," Om said.

The fraud was perpetrated between December 24 and January 9, during which the couple was forced to remain on audio and video calls continuously, and coerced into transferring large sums of money to multiple bank accounts in the name of verification, police said.

CYBER FRAUD

- Couple kept under digital arrest from December 24 to January 9
- Fraudsters alleged couple was involved in money laundering
- Asked to transfer money to multiple bank accounts for 'verification'

An e-FIR has been registered, and the cybercrime unit of the Delhi Police has taken up the investigation.

Police said the couple had returned to India after working for decades in the United States and were residing in Delhi's Greater Kailash area since 2016. Their children are settled abroad.

Indira said that around noon on December 24, she received an audio call from a person claiming to be a Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) official. "He told me that my telephone number was being disconnected because obscene calls were made from it," she said.

Soon after, the caller switched to the video mode. "A man named Vikrant Singh Rajput appeared on the screen wearing a police uniform. I could see police insignia behind him. He told me I was involved in money laundering," she said.

The fraudsters then came up with the "verification process," assuring her that it was the only way to avoid arrest. "They kept demanding money — Rs 2 crore, Rs 2.1 crore, Rs 2.5 crore. The phone or the video call remained active almost throughout the day," the woman said.

Bengaluru Monday, January 12, 2026 Pages 16 Vol 79 No 12 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Imperious Kohli delivers again

Veteran scores 93 as India down New Zealand by 4 wkts

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State

Siddu dismisses BJP's 'power struggle after Sankranti' claim P.4

Metro

Army officer from Bengaluru bags UN Secy General's Award P.3

Nation

'Indian Idol 3' winner Prashant Tamang dies P.12

Nation

Delhi blast: Al Falah campus may be attached P.12

Quickly

Govt: X admits mistake over Grok content

Days after the Union government warned X (formerly Twitter) over obscene content generated by its AI chatbot Grok, the platform on Sunday reportedly admitted its mistake and removed approximately 3,500 pieces of content. Insisting that it would comply with Indian laws, the US-based social-media company is also said to have promised the Centre that it would not allow obscene images on its platform anymore.

Maha Yuti vows Mumbai free of illegal migrants

Aiming to establish a "triple-engine sarkar" after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation polls, the BJP-led Maha Yuti – including the Shiv Sena and the RPI (Athawale) – promised a Mumbai free of potholes, slums, monsoon waterlogging, and even Bangladeshis and Rohingyas besides, a 50% concession on fares for women in BEST buses, interest-free loans for women to make them self-dependent and help them establish small-scale industries.

Details on Page 8

Light pollution: B'luru cops book 10k cases

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have intensified its drive against light pollution, with cases surging to 9,782 as of Sunday. The drive, which began on January 7, saw a massive spike on Saturday night alone, with 1,843 new violations logged across the city. The crackdown targets unauthorised LED lights, high-intensity lamps and coloured flash lights that officials say are turning city roads into accident zones.

Details on Page 2

Iran says it will target US bases & Israel if attacked

Trump briefed about strike options; more than 500 killed in Islamic Republic

DUBAI/JERUSALEM/PARIS, AGENCIES

Amid nationwide protests challenging Iran's theocratic regime, Tehran threatened on Sunday to retaliate against Israel and US military bases in the event of US strikes on Iran even as US officials said President Donald Trump has been briefed on new options for military strikes in the Islamic republic.

More than 500 people have been killed and 3,280 detained during the protests that started two weeks back, according to the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency.

Meanwhile, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said that "rioters" should not be allowed to disrupt Iranian society, in his first remarks after three nights of intensified protests against the authorities.

"The people (of Iran) should not allow rioters to disrupt society. The people should believe that we (the government) want to establish justice," he told a state broadcaster.

Iran's parliament speaker warned that the US military and Israel would be "legitimate targets" if America strikes the Islamic Republic, as threatened by President Donald Trump. Mohammad Qalibaf made the threat as lawmakers rushed the dais in the Iranian parliament.

Iranian state television broadcast the parliament session live. Qalibaf, a hard-liner who has run for the presidency in the past, gave a speech applauding police and Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard for having "stood firm" during the protests.

He went on to directly threaten Israel, "the occupied territory" as he referred to it, and the US military, possibly with a preemptive strike.

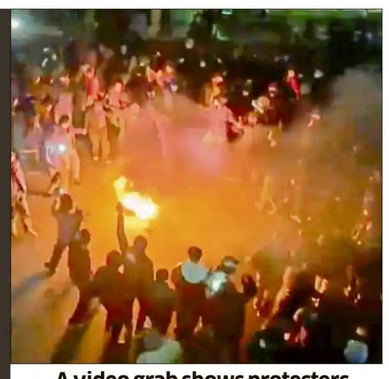
▸ Iran, Page 5

'Make a deal before it's too late': Trump to Cuba, Page 9

What they say

- Iran's president says officials will listen to protesters, but rioters are trying to "destroy the entire society"
- US State Department issues a warning: "Do not play games with President Trump. When he says he'll do something, he means it"
- Israel says it supports the Iranian people in their "struggle for freedom"

> In the event of an attack on Iran, both the occupied territory and all American military centres, bases and ships in the region will be our legitimate targets. We do not consider ourselves limited to reacting after the action and will act based on any objective signs of a threat
>
> **Mohammad Qalibaf,** Iran's parliament speaker



A video grab shows protesters on a Tehran street amid an intensifying crackdown. AP/PTI

Info trickles amid internet cut

- Nationwide internet shutdown has now stretched to more than 60 hours
- Videos of large demonstrations in the capital Tehran and other cities filter out despite internet cut
- There are fears that information blackout will embolden hard-liners to launch a bloody crackdown
- US military says it is "postured with forces that span the full range of combat capability"
- Besides Tehran, protests in cities such as Mashhad, Kerman
- Mashhad is home to holiest shrine in Shiite Islam, making the protests carry heavy significance for govt

Death of voters, BLO triggers fresh TMC-BJP slugfest

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Madan Ghosh, 65, died of a cerebral stroke while waiting in the queue to appear before the officials to defend his right to vote in Howrah, while Kanchan Mandal, 77, died after suffering a cardiac arrest while waiting for his turn for the same in Birbhum.

Hamimul Islam, one of the Booth Level Officers appointed by the Election Commission for the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, was on the other side of the table. But the 47-year-old, a school headmaster in Murshidabad, died by suicide, allegedly due to the pressure of additional work.

The deaths of Madan, Kanchan and Hamimul were the latest ones blamed on the SIR in West Bengal, not only by the bereaved families but also by the ruling Trinamool Congress, which continued its war of words with the poll panel as well as the BJP.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged in her latest letter to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar that the state has seen 77 deaths, in addition to four suicide attempts, since the SIR began in October 2025.

▸ Bengal SIR, Page 5

Govt demands source code from phone makers: Report

Centre denies making any such proposal

NEW DELHI, DHNS & REUTERS

Smartphone manufacturers have been asked to share their source code as part of a security overhaul proposed by the Centre, claimed a news report that was denied by the government on Sunday.

"The Government of India has NOT proposed any measure to force smartphone manufacturers to share their source code," the Press Information Bureau posted on X.

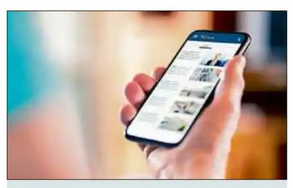
"The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has started the process of stakeholders' consultations to devise the most appropriate regulatory framework for mobile security," the post said, adding that it is "part of regular and routine consultations with the industry for any safety or security standards".

"Once a stakeholder consultation is done, then various aspects of security standards are discussed with the industry," the post said. "No final regulations have been framed, and any future framework will be formulated only after due consultations," the PIB said.

The statement came after *Reuters* said the government had asked smartphone makers to share source code and make several software changes as part of a raft of security measures.

The tech companies countered that the package of 83 security standards, which would also include a requirement to alert the government to major software updates, lacks any global precedent and risks revealing proprietary details, *Reuters* reported, citing four people familiar with the discussions and a review of confidential government and industry documents.

▸ Phone, Page 5



Proposed changes

- Proposed law, Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirements, seeks to boost security of user data
- As part of proposal, device makers would have to inform govt about major software updates and security patches
- Companies also required to make software changes to allow pre-installed apps to be uninstalled

Ahead of Budget, startups seek ESOP clarity

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ahead of the Union Budget 2026, the country's startup ecosystem is expecting policymakers to address various challenges, including clarity on ESOP (Employee Stock Option Plan) taxation and enhanced funding in deep tech, AI, data and cybersecurity startups.

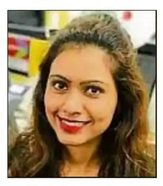
Currently, there are no proper guidelines on ESOPs.

Details on Page 10

Twist in B'luru techie murder; 18-yr-old boy behind crime: Cops

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a sensational twist, Bengaluru police have arrested an 18-year-old boy for murdering a 34-year-old software engineer after she rejected his sexual advances.

Sharmila D K was initially believed to have died in a fire accident at her flat in eastern Bengaluru last weekend.



The deceased techie, Sharmila DK

But police were stumped when they found that it was arson and further probe led to the shocking discovery: Karnal Kurai, a PUC student and a neighbour of Sharmila, was behind the murder. Kurai is a native of Virajpet in Kodagu district.

Hailing from Dakshina Kannada, Sharmila, who was unmarried, lived in a two-bedroom flat at Sankalpa Nilaya in Subramanya Layout and worked at a prominent tech company in Bengaluru.

Between 10.15 pm and 10.45 pm on January 3, a fire was reported at the flat. Firefighters who doused the blaze found Sharmila's charred body.

Investigators initially suspected a short circuit as the fire had broken out in the bedroom used by Sharmila's roommate, who had been away in her hometown in Assam since November 14, 2025.

However, one of Sharmila's friends suspected foul play, and the jurisdictional Ramamurthy Nagar police opened a case of unnatural death.

▸ Murder, Page 5

Somnath temple attacks whitewashed, says Modi

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that historians and politicians had tried to "whitewash" the history of attacks on Gujarat's Somnath temple by terming them "ordinary plunder".

And forces that had opposed its reconstruction after Independence are still against it and India needs to remain alert to defeat them, Modi said during the "Somnath Swabhiman Parv", held to mark 1,000 years of attack on the Somnath temple by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1026.

Details on Facing Page

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TAKING OFF

KIA set for major technological upgrade this year

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport is set to get a slew of technical upgrades aimed at enhancing safety, efficiency and capacity.

By 2026-end, the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the provider of Air Navigation Services (ANS), plans to upgrade and replace key ANS systems at the airport.

Central to this effort is the modernisation of the Air Traffic Control (ATC) automation system, which will introduce advanced flight data processing, better integration of surveillance inputs and improved decision-support tools for controllers. The upgrade is aimed at managing rising air traffic more efficiently while upholding the safety standards.

Revamp time

- Air Traffic Control
- Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System
- Aeronautical Message Switching System
- Voice Communication Control System

"Since the airport opened in 2008, we have maintained the ANS, but now it is time for an upgrade, to better accommodate future operations," K Anbarasu, General Manager (Bengaluru), AAI, told *DH*. "As the airport operations are set to grow, the ANS needs to be able to accommodate that growth. We are carrying out the upgradation drive across the airport, while ensuring that the ongoing operations remain unimpacted."

The Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (ASMGCS) will also be upgraded. The revamped system will provide a more precise monitoring and control of aircraft and vehicle movements on both the North and South runways, in addition to all taxiways. This will improve ground safety and operational efficiency, particularly during low-visibility conditions, the AAI official stated.

▸ KIA, Page 5

GBA opens door to CSR funding for city's infra projects

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has announced new public-private partnerships to improve the city's civic infrastructure.

It has invited companies with CSR funds, and philanthropic persons and organisations to design, implement and maintain high-impact urban improvement projects.

"The initiative seeks to streamline CSR- and philanthropy-supported works, ensure protocols, standardise procedures and align private funding with Bengaluru's priority urban infrastructure needs," a public notice from the GBA said.

Interested organisations or persons can support the design (DPR preparation), implementation (execution of works), maintenance (two-year renewable period), or all stages of a project. They can submit an Expression of Interest on the GBA website by choosing a project of interest or proposing a site of their choice.

After submitting the form, the respective corporation will schedule a meeting.

The GBA's CSR cell, chaired by the Chief Engineer (Planning and Coordination), will hold periodic meetings to review project progress. It will also serve as the single point of contact for coordination of proposals from companies looking to adopt projects across the city.

After scope is finalised, a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the organisation and the relevant city corporation. All subsequent coordination and approvals will be handled by the respective corporation, as per the notice.

Over 10,000 motorists land in trouble over dazzling headlights

Action against illegal lights that endanger night driving

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has intensified their special drive against light pollution, with cases surging to 9,782 as of Sunday.

The drive, which began on January 7, recorded 1,843 new violations on Saturday night alone.

The crackdown targets unauthorised LED lights, high-intensity discharge lamps, and coloured flashlights that officials say are making roads hazardous after sunset.

The West Division remains the main hotspot, accounting for more than half the city's total with 4,994 bookings to date.

From SUVs to autorickshaws, vehicles are being stopped for exceeding permissible wattage or using non-prescribed lighting. BTP data shows a growing trend of flashlights on private vehicles, often in red, blue or yellow, creating confusion on the roads.

For regular night-time commuters, the drive is vital.

"It is like being hit by a laser beam," says Rohan Das, a techie who commutes via the Outer Ring Road. "When an SUV with a high beam comes from the opposite side, I have to stop my bike because I cannot see the road for the next five seconds."

Other commuters reported being alarmed by deceptive lighting. One driver recalled stopping on a flyover after mistaking a private vehicle's flashing LEDs for a police interceptor.

RTO officials clarify that any modification deviating from manufacturer specifications violates the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR). Specifically, AIS-130 (Automotive Industry Standard) regulates the approval of LED sources.

Traffic policemen make a violator remove unauthorised light fittings from his vehicle. PHOTO: BTP

ROHAN DAS
Techie

"It is like being hit by a laser beam. When an SUV with a high beam comes from the opposite side, I have to stop my bike because I cannot see the road for the next five seconds.

Enforcement on the spot

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy has directed all police stations to register cases and ensure on-the-spot removal of unauthorised fittings, dismantling LED bars, and flashers from vehicles, including bikes and commercial pick-ups.

All kinds of LED show lights.

RTO safety standards show a significant difference between legal and illegal lighting.

Under AIS-130, a standard white LED headlight should operate between 4 and 12 watts, producing 725 lumens with an even, road-focused distribution. Many illegal modifications use 50 to 100 or more watts, generating thousands of lumens concentrated into a piercing, laser-like beam.

Law permits standard white or warm yellow headlights, but violators are increasingly using blue, red, or multi-colour flashing lights, which are prohibited for private use.

"Many aftermarket LED lights lack UV radiation control and normalised luminous intensity," a senior Transport Department official said. "When you jump from 12 watts to 100 watts, you are not just lighting the road; you are creating a blinding wall of light that leads to head-on collisions. Your vehicle's high beam can cause harm to another person's life. Use low beam at night."

Sumanahalli crematorium reopens today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The animal crematorium at Sumanahalli will reopen on Monday, nearly nine months after it was shut down.

One of the city's major facilities for animal cremation, the centre was closed following the collapse of its chimney on April 14.

"The Engineering Department of the Bengaluru West City Corporation has reconstructed a strong and stable new chimney. With this upgrade, the facility is now ready to resume uninterrupted services for animal lovers and the general public," the corporation said in a statement.

The crematorium will function from 7 am to 5 pm, starting Monday.

YouTube channel booked for uploading PU preparatory examination paper

BENGALURU, DHNS: The city police have registered a criminal case against a YouTube channel for uploading a question paper modelled after the board paper during the ongoing preparatory examinations for Pre-University Course (PUC) students.

The FIR was registered by the North Cybercrime Police on January 9, following a complaint by Raju N, Joint Director, Department of PU Education, Bengaluru, officials said.

Raju informed the police that the Hindi language preparatory examination was scheduled for January 9.

He learnt that around 4 pm the previous day, "a YouTube channel named Niranjan-Shetty@Niranjan Shetty9581 (https://youtube.com/@niranjanshetty9581?si=nqbHTSEam1VkVLDK) prepared a Hindi examination question paper in the model provided by the department and uploaded it to this channel ([suspicious link removed]) in an attempt to mislead students," the FIR noted.

Police have launched an investigation under Section 66(C) of the Information Technology Act.

Court dismisses L&T plea on K-RIDE bank guarantees

Interim restraint on guarantees continues only until January 24

BENGALURU, DHNS

A commercial court in Bengaluru has dismissed L&T's application in its contractual dispute with K-RIDE, clearing the way for the agency to invoke bank guarantees after January 24.

The company filed a Commercial Arbitration Application before the 87th Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge (Commercial Court), seeking to restrain K-RIDE from invocation of mobilisation and performance bank guarantees over its contract for Corridor-4 (Kanaka Line) of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP).

The dispute is related to a contract awarded to L&T for the design and construction of an 8.96-km elevated corridor and a 37.92-km at-grade corridor on the Heelalige-Rajanukunte line.

The company was issued the Letter of Acceptance (LoA) on December 30, 2023.

L&T alleged that K-RIDE induced it to bid by making false and fraudulent representations about the availability of encumbrance-free land and work fronts.

L&T had submitted a performance bank guarantee of Rs 31.21 crore and a mobilisation advance bank guarantee of Rs 28.41 crore. DH FILE PHOTO

According to the company, even months after the LoA, substantial portions of the required land were unavailable, utilities had not been shifted, and the project scope was repeatedly altered without formal change-of-scope orders.

L&T claimed that these factors made performance impossible and eventually led it to terminate the contract unilaterally in July 2025.

On these grounds, the company sought protection against the invocation of a performance bank guarantee of Rs 31.21 crore and a mobilisation advance bank guarantee of Rs 28.41 crore.

K-RIDE denied the allegations of fraud and contended that land was to be handed over progressively as clarified during the pre-bid stage. It argued that delays, if any, entitled the contractor only to extensions of time, not suspension of obligations.

It also alleged poor mobilisation and slow progress by L&T despite availability of work fronts.

Judge CD Karoshi noted that L&T had itself terminated the contract and that the bank guarantees in question were unconditional and irrevocable.

The court observed that an arbitral tribunal had already been constituted and proceedings had commenced.

In such circumstances, Section 9(3) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act restricts it from granting interim measures when efficacious relief can be sought under Section 17 before the tribunal.

While allowing K-RIDE's application to vacate the earlier ex parte interim injunction granted on July 30, 2025, the court ruled that the interim restraint on invocation of bank guarantees will continue only until January 24.

Pedestrian fatally knocked down by lorry in Marathahalli

BENGALURU, DHNS: A man in his late 30s was killed after being hit by a speeding lorry on the Outer Ring Road (ORR), Marathahalli, south-east Bengaluru, on Saturday night.

Police said the accident occurred around 8.30 pm in front of a prominent store. The pedestrian, whose identity is yet to be established, was attempting to cross the road when the lorry struck him.

The impact left the man with grievous injuries. While onlookers rushed to provide assistance, police officials said the victim died while being shifted to the hospital in an ambulance.

The deceased is estimated to be aged between 35 and 40. The body has been shifted to Bowring Hospital mortuary for post-mortem examination.

The HAL Airport traffic police have registered a case and are examining CCTV footage from the area to identify the lorry driver, who reportedly fled the scene after the accident.

Police are yet to find any identification documents on the deceased. Any next of kin or persons with information about the victim are requested to contact the HAL Airport traffic police station or city traffic control room.

Two friends killed, three injured as car crashes into barricade on NICE Road

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two people were killed and three others injured after a car crashed into a roadside barricade and overturned near the NICE Road bridge in Varahasandra, south Bengaluru, on Saturday night.

The deceased were identified as Devaraj (32) and Ashok (23), both from Madhugiri taluk in Tumakuru district.

The two, who lived in Laggere and worked at a private company, were travelling to Nelamangala with their friends Srinivas, Madan and Mahantesh, police said.

Devaraj, who was allegedly driving at high speed, lost control of the car, causing it to ram into a barricade and overturn.

All five occupants were rushed to hospital, where Devaraj and Ashok, who had suffered critical injuries, succumbed, the police said.

Srinivas, Madan and Mahantesh, who were seated in the rear of the car, survived. The vehicle was badly damaged in the impact, police added.

Man faces POCSO case for minor's kidnap-murder

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Whitefield police have invoked the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against a man who was arrested for kidnapping and murdering a six-year-old girl.

Police sources said the Act was invoked based on evidence recovered during the investigation. "A detailed FSL report is awaited."

The body of the girl, who went missing on January 5, was found the next night in a dry canal in Pattandur Agrahara, Whitefield, where she stayed with her family of migrant workers from West Bengal.

Police subsequently arrested Yusuf Meer, in his mid-30s, who was also a migrant worker and the girl's neighbour. The suspect was nabbed in Odisha.

Police had initially ruled out sexual assault. They suspect a dispute between the two families as the motive for the offence.

Woman held for attacking home guard on duty

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Ramamurthy Nagar police have arrested a woman who allegedly attacked a home guard regulating traffic near the KR Puram railway station in eastern Bengaluru.

The arrested is Dhamini alias Mohini, 31, of Mahadevapura.

Police said that around 3 pm on January 9, the victim, Lakshminarasamma, told Dhamini, who was standing on the road next to a BMTC bus stop, that she was obstructing traffic.

Dhamini then attacked the home guard. The incident was captured on a phone by a passerby and went viral on social media.

Dhamini was arrested and sent to judicial custody.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

National Youth Day: Ayurveda health check-up camp; Organised by Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University; Rajaji Hall, Central College Campus; 10.30 am.

Swami Vivekananda Jayanti: MN Nataraj, Janapada S Balaji to attend; Organised by Karnataka State Youth Associations Federation Bengaluru Urban District Unit; Press Club, Cubbon Park; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Book release: 'British Law in Mysore State'; Organised by Bengaluru Urban Sharana Sahitya Parishat, Kadali Mahila Vedike; Nayana Auditorium, Kannada Bhavana, JC Road; 5 pm.

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST
Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	23.0°C
Minimum	16.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	89%
Sunset (Jan 12)	6:10 pm
Sunrise (Jan 13)	6:44 am
Moonrise	12:30 am
Moonset	12:30 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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TENDER NOTICE

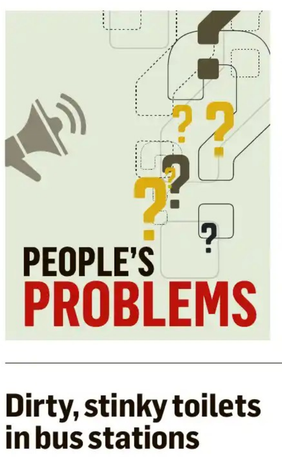
CONRAD BENGALURU

Conrad Bengaluru, a luxurious 5-Star hotel invites sealed tenders from reliable and established vendors in Bengaluru on a rate contract basis of 12 months commencing from **1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027** to supply of following:

Food & Beverage
1. Indian grocery (pulses, spices, tin products, canned & bottle products)
2. Dry Fruits
3. Imported grocery (imported tin, canned & bottle)
4. Local Vegetable
5. Local & imported fruits
6. Exotic vegetable
7. Garlic Peeled, Mushroom, Frozen Corn, Sambar onion
8. Fresh Chicken & Chicken Products.
9. Egg
10. Fresh Fish & Sea Food
11. Fresh lamb & lamb products
12. Frozen Sea Food
13. Imported sea food
14. Tenderloin
15. Fresh milk, milk products & tetra milk Packet.
16. Local & imported cheese
17. Ice Cream
18. Snacks & sweets

Non Food Items
1. Office stationery
2. Printing Stationery
3. Housekeeping & general supply
4. Cooking gas & fuel gel
5. Fresh flower & decorator
6. Hiring of AV equipment's & banquet CCG/ Furniture
7. Courier services
8. Motor Rewinding/glass & mirror fixing
9. Sales Vehicle & ODC Vehicle providers
10. Charcoal
11. ODC Manpower

Tender Forms and other Particulars can be obtained on payment of **Rs. 1000/-** for each category and are available with the purchase manager at the hotel between **10am** to **5pm** from **15th Jan** to **02th February 2026.** Last date of duly filled tender forms submission is on **10th February 2026.**
The Tender is subject to following: 1. The Rates finalized for the twelve months will not change under any circumstances. 2. The rates must be inclusive of delivery charges until our stores premises; tax should be shown separately on the invoices if applicable. 3. The Hotel reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without any reasons whatsoever and no representation shall be entertained on this account.
Sealed tenders must be addressed to the attention of: Purchase Manager, Conrad Bengaluru, 25/3, Kensington Rd, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-08, Tel: +91,80 22144371,73



Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner.

Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column.

The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @deccanherald.co.in

Dirty, stinky toilets in bus stations

A month ago, before boarding an Airavat Club Class bus to Udupi from the Kempegowda Bus Station (Majestic) at 10.50 pm, I used the public toilet to avoid discomfort during the journey, as many women travellers do. Unfortunately, the condition of the facility was disappointing.

The toilets were unclean, unhygienic and foul-smelling. Adding to the distress, two women ran behind users demanding a fee of Rs 5 each. Such conditions pose a genuine risk of urinary tract infections and other health issues.

The situation turned worse when a user was chased for Rs 10 and prevented from using the toilet. On some occasions, these facilities are even manned by men, raising serious concerns about safety and dignity.

This is not an isolated incident, but a common sight at bus stations across cities in Karnataka. The health and transport departments must urgently inspect these facilities and regulate those managing them.

Unless immediate action is taken, women travellers may continue to avoid these toilets altogether, risking serious health problems or being forced to seek unsafe alternatives.

SN Saraswathy
Ramanjayanagar, Hanumagiri Hills Layout

No proper footpaths at Jalahalli Cross

There are no proper footpaths on any of the four sides of Jalahalli Cross towards Ayyappa Temple, nor is there a safe pedestrian crossing. As a result, pedestrians are forced to risk their lives while crossing the road.

Adding to the danger, many motorists do not follow traffic signals, while traffic police personnel remain seated in the kiosk without enforcing the rules. This apathy has made the junction particularly unsafe for pedestrians.

The authorities concerned must urgently provide proper footpaths, mark pedestrian crossings and ensure strict enforcement of traffic regulations at the junction.

Nagarajan R
SM Road, Jalahalli West

Huge traffic on small AECS Layout road

Until recently, vehicles travelling from Kundalahalli Gate to the CRIT College bus stop en route to ITPL used ITPL Main Road. However, guided by GPS, many motorists are now diverting through the 60-foot road inside AECS Layout to avoid traffic signals on ITPL Main Road.

As a result, this internal road is witnessing severe traffic congestion. Pedestrian movement, especially for senior citizens and children, has become extremely difficult and unsafe.

I request the traffic police authorities to consider deploying a traffic constable on this stretch, or installing a traffic signal, to regulate traffic and ensure pedestrian safety.

HVK Bhatta
AECS Layout, Kundalahalli

Civic neglect in Horamavu Agara

Horamavu Agara was brought within the city limits over a decade ago and is now densely populated. However, despite the regular collection of property taxes, basic civic amenities such as Cauvery water supply and underground sewage lines are yet to be provided.

Most private borewells in the area have dried up, leaving residents dependent entirely on water tankers. While some households have managed with septic tanks, others have been forced to divert sewage into vacant plots due to the absence of proper infrastructure.

At the junction of 3rd Cross, Rajana Layout and Horamavu Agara Main Road, sewage water frequently floods the road, posing a serious public health hazard. This spot has also become a garbage dumping site, and repeated complaints to the authorities have yielded no results.

Adding to residents' woes, large potholes in the area remain unattended, further worsening safety and accessibility. The authorities concerned must take immediate steps to address these long-pending issues.

DF Pinto
Rajana Layout, Horamavu Agara

Garbage dumping and unattended potholes persist at the spot, even after repeated complaints to authorities.

No meetings, diverted funds & stalled events irk Chalanachitra Academy members

Unhappy about being kept out of planning B'luru film fest

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy, established in 2009 with a vision of promoting cinema literacy and improving the quality of films made in the state, is presently facing criticism from its own members. No regular meetings, diversion of funds and stalled programmes have been the key reasons.

Barring the annual Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) which is primarily organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations, members allege that the academy has been inactive. They say that the academy has only called for two meetings in the last year. The bylaw says four meetings have to be held annually.

"In the first two meetings, it was decided that the academy would conduct film festivals in border areas, organise regional and women's film festivals in various districts, and establish film clubs in government colleges across the state. None of this has taken off," a member said.

'Fund diversion'

A major point of contention is funding. Members point out that the academy was promised Rs 2 crore, however, they believe the amount has been diverted towards the construction of the film city in Mysuru.

The members are also unhappy about being kept out of the planning and organisation of BIFFes, despite the festival being closely associated with the academy's mandate.

Stalled vision

Filmmaker T S Nagabharana, the first chairperson of the academy, had compiled an expansive vision document detailing the institution's responsibilities. These included promoting cinema literacy through film appreciation and workshops across departments, compiling comprehensive information on Kannada cinema, training trainers, establishing film societies and film clubs, exposing Kannada audiences to international cinema, and encouraging research through scholarships.

It also included the creation of a film museum, a repository and archive of Kannada films and documentaries, a video and audio library, maintenance of records on the history of Kannada cinema, and encouragement of regional cinema in Kodava, Tulu and Konkani languages. Programmes were conducted under initiatives such as Belli Sakshi, Belli Bedagu, Belli Tare Bangara and Belli Achchu.

Recalling the early years, Nagabharana said the academy had set up film societies across the state. "People would watch good films and discuss them. This was crucial to inculcate good cinematic taste among Kannada audiences," he said.

He added that around 600 colleges were affiliated to the academy at one point. "Every month, we would send a film to the film clubs. They would screen it, hold a discussion, record it and send it back to the academy. This continued for a year. It is important for students to differentiate between good and bad films and understand visual media," he said.

Another key objective was to encourage research on Kannada cinema by offering scholarships and access to research material, thereby strengthening the industry's academic base. The academy had also aimed to evolve a uniform film curriculum for film schools in Karnataka. "Different institutes follow their own syllabus —one teaches cinematography, another focuses only on acting. There is no common curriculum," Nagabharana said.

According to him, apart from BIFFes, all other programmes were gradually discontinued. "The government gets recognition and publicity through BIFFes, and that is the only reason the festival continues," he alleged.

He also stressed the need for enforcing a comprehensive film policy, especially since the government provides subsidies, and for introducing welfare measures such as a retirement plan for film workers.

Books without readers

Members also raised concerns about the academy's publications. While the KCA continues to publish books every year, these are not available to the public. At BIFFes last year, the academy released five titles, including 'Karnad Kaleidoscope' by senior journalist Muralidhar Khajane and works on Kannada cinema by N S Sridhar Murthy, A N Prahlad Rao, P D Satish Chandra and J M Prahlad.

Chairperson's take

Responding to the charges Academy chairperson Sadhu Kokila said the members were appointed only in March last year, and that is why they could not conduct all the meetings.

"I have already sent a letter for the next meeting, scheduled for later this month. All members have been involved in all upcoming initiatives—OTT for Kannada cinema, film archive programme and to get the sector recognised as an industry". "For any programme, we need funds. The government had promised Rs 2 crore but it has been diverted to build a compound for the film city in Mysuru, film archives programme and OTT project".

The senior actor said he had submitted a plan of action and had requested the government thrice for funds. Their response has been 'next time', he added.

BMTC staff help Hassan doctor recover gift box lost on airport bus

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) staff have helped in tracing a gift box within two days after it was lost in the city during transit from Delhi to Hassan.

Dr H R Samyami Lekkekatte, a consultant psychiatrist from Hassan, had travelled to Delhi four days ago. An acquaintance had given him a home-cleaning robot to deliver as a gift to a friend in Hassan.

After flying into Bengaluru, Dr Lekkekatte boarded a Vayu Vajra bus, got down at Rajajinagar and boarded a bus to Hassan. After travelling some distance, he realised he had forgotten the gift. He was unsure where he had left it. He contacted the Bengaluru airport authorities and even lodged a complaint by email but received no response.

Dr Lekkekatte later had to travel to Delhi again. While boarding a Vayu Vajra bus to the airport, he discussed the missing gift box with the bus conductor, Parameshwar.

Within minutes of sharing the details, the box was traced and its photograph was sent to him. It was confirmed that he had left the box on a KIA 10/10 bus belonging to the Kathriguppe depot, and that it was being kept at the depot's security section.

"I was distressed when the luggage was lost. Even after complaining at the airport, there was no response. I had assumed that even if it was left on a BMTC bus, finding it would be unlikely. When I received the information within two days, I felt proud of BMTC's functioning," Dr Lekkekatte said.

"If passengers forget items on BMTC buses, staff hand them over to the depot's security section. If those who lost them provide details, the items are returned. We receive reports of 10-15 lost items every day," said Ramappa, Assistant Traffic Manager at the BMTC's airport depot.

Major Swathi Shantha Kumar with women in South Sudan, where she has been deployed on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). She leads the first female engagement team in India.

Army officer from Bengaluru bags UN Secy General's Award

BENGALURU, DHNS

Major Swathi Shantha Kumar, a 31-year-old Bengalurean serving on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), has won the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 for her project "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace."

She was recognised for her strategic operations that created a secure environment for 5,000 women, allowing them to move freely and participate in local peace dialogues, the UN said.

The award was announced by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday.

Major Swathi leads an Indian Engagement Team that has been instrumental in strengthening grassroots-level security and community confidence.

Her project emerged as the winner in the 'Gender Category' following a competitive UN-wide voting process involving personnel globally.

Under Major Swathi's command, the Indian contingent conducted extensive short and long-distance patrols, including integrated riverine and dynamic air patrols, reaching some of the most remote and conflict-affected counties in South Sudan. By integrating female peacekeepers into frontline duties, the initiative set a new benchmark for gender parity in international missions.

In his address, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres lauded the initiative for further strengthening the gender-inclusive approach of UNMISS. The project was shortlisted from a vast pool of nominations across various UN peacekeeping missions and agencies worldwide.

Major Swathi's efforts have been hailed not just for providing physical security, but for building lasting community trust in a region long marred by instability.

Her mother, Rajamani, a retired headmistress, expressed happiness that her daughter's work is being recognised.

"Swathi is the eldest of my three daughters and is very brave. In 2018, she finished her training at Officers' Training Academy (OTA), Chennai. For two years, she served as a lieutenant in Kalimpong, West Bengal. The next two years were spent as a captain in Karu village, in the Leh district of Ladakh, followed by one year in Gujarat before she went to Sudan," Rajamani told *DH*.

Most of Swathi's education took place in Bengaluru, and the family resides in Lingarajapuram.

Woman intoxicated, raped in Hubballi; police arrest 3

HUBBALLI, DHNS: The old Hubballi police arrested three individuals on charges of abducting a 32-year-old woman in an autorickshaw, making her consue liquor, sexually assaulting her and circulating a video of the assault on social media.

The survivor, a native of Haveri district, was admitted to the KMCRI hospital for treatment and later handed over to officials of the women and child welfare department.

The arrested are Shivanand Kanan and Ganesh Giddannavar of Shivashankar colony, who allegedly committed the offence, and Pradeep, who is accused of recording the incident and sharing the photos and videos on social media.

Hubballi-Dharwad police commissioner N Shashi Kumar said that the incident occurred on the night of January 9.

"The suspects took the woman in an autorickshaw from Dr B R Ambedkar ground near the Indi pump to a forested area near the leprosy hospital in Anand Nagar, where she was sexually assaulted. Based on the woman's complaint, the accused were arrested," he said.

युवा कार्यक्रम एवं खेल मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
VIKSIT BHARAT
YOUNG LEADERS
DIALOGUE 2026
09TH-12TH JANUARY I BHARAT MANDAPAM, NEW DELHI
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Siddu dismisses BJP's 'power struggle after Sankranti' claim

'Will explain to Guv on hate speech bill if necessary'

MANGALURU, DHNS

Dismissing speculation of a power tussle within the ruling Congress, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Sunday, "There is no tussle for the chief minister's chair."

Reacting to a query on BJP's social media post claiming that the fight for the chief minister's chair in the Congress will resume after Sankranti, the chief minister said "Where is the fight? You ask such questions unnecessarily. There is no issue. It's all creation of section of media."

On BJP planning to meet the Governor over the hate speech Bill, the CM said, "Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill 2025 has not been rejected by the Governor. The Bill was unanimously passed in the legislature. The Governor has neither returned, rejected, nor given assent to it. "We will give explanation on the Bill, when he calls for it," he said.

When asked on BJP's planned protest march condemning Ballari violence, Siddaramaiah said "Let them do, who said they should not. In the past, we undertook a march with a specific purpose behind it. Then Lokayukta Justice Santosh Hegde had given a report which said that Ballari has been converted into "Republic of Ballari" and illegal mining is rampant there. When I (as Leader of Opposition) discussed in the assembly, Reddy brothers (then Minister G Janardhan Reddy and brothers) and Yediyurappa (then CM) objected, so I had led a foot march to Ballari," he said.

The CM questioned the necessity of removing the banner mounted for the unveiling of the Maharshi Valmiki statue in Ballari. "Removing the banner instigated the incident. Former ministers Janardhan Reddy and Sriramulu are acting out of jealousy because they lost their positions in Ballari," he said.

ZP, TP polls: Delimitation, quota to be finalised in a month

Some wards in 12 taluks of 10 dists notified as urban

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The rural development and panchayat raj (RDPR) department is expected to finalise the delimitation and reservation of wards for the upcoming zilla and taluk panchayat (ZP&TP) elections within a month. The elections were scheduled to be held in 2021, but have been delayed since then.

Panchayat Raj Department Secretary D Randeep told *DH* that the department would complete the process of delimitation of constituencies and the reservation roster within a month. He said the urban development department had issued a notification on December 31, declaring some regions as urban areas.

According to a gazette notification, local body wards in Bangarpet (Kolar), Gauribidanur and Chintamani (Chikkaballapur), Koratagere (Tumakaru), Tikota and Vijayapura (Vijayapura), Sedam (Kalaburagi), Basava Kalyana (Bidar), Shahapur (Yadgir), T Narasipur (Mysuru), Nelamangala (B'luru North) and Magadi (B'luru South) — 12 taluks in 10 districts — have been notified as urban areas.

As a result, they have to be dropped as constituencies for the ZP&TP polls.

Leftover GP areas

"We have written to the DCs concerned that the leftover GP areas shall either be merged with neighbouring gram panchayats (GPs) or new GPs can be notified if they are big enough. We have given them 10 days (to complete the task). After that, delimitation will be taken up by the delimitation commission," Randeep said.

"Best efforts are being made to complete this process within a month's time, & we have requested UDD not to notify any further areas as urban areas till elections to ZP & TP are completed," he added.

After this, the list will be handed over to the state election commission (SEC) once the Cabinet decides to do so. The SEC has filed a contempt plea in the high court over the delay in holding elections.

According to SEC sources, the reservation list has to be prepared 45 days before the election dates are announced.

On December 28, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar had said at the Congress foundation day programme that they (government) will have to prepare for the ZP and TP polls in 2-3 months, adding that CM Siddaramaiah had spoken to RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge in this regard.

Party high command will take a call on my future, says Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Sunday that the party would "take a decision on him going forward."

"I don't come from a political family, yet I have grown to this level. I am confident that the party will make a decision on me going forward," Shivakumar said while speaking at the Udyami Vokkaliga Expo 2026 event.

The comments come at a time when Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, has been trying to become the chief minister.

Stating that people from his own community were "criticising" him, Shivakumar added: "They are stabbing from the front and they are stabbing from the back. My conscience knows how honest I was when (Union Minister) Kumaraswamy was the CM. Now, Kumaraswamy is accusing me of backstabbing him. I don't need any certificates, my conscience knows."

Kumaraswamy and Shivakumar have, for some time, been engaged in a battle for one-upmanship over the dominant Vokkaliga community.

'Ready for debate'

Speaking to reporters, the deputy chief minister said he would accept the challenge of the Opposition on the repeal of the MGNREGA.

When asked about Kumaraswamy's invitation for the debate, he said, "I welcome him. It would be good if he came for the debate first. Be it BJP State President (BY Vijayendra) or the Leader of the Opposition (R Ashoka) or Kumaraswamy, I am ready. It can be a public platform, session or media platform, I am prepared."

On Kumaraswamy calling Siddaramaiah a "leased CM," Shivakumar said they don't take him (Kumaraswamy) "seriously."

D'gere ex-corporator found dead in burnt car, police suspect suicide

DAVANGERE, DHNS: The charred body of former Davangere corporator Chandrashekar Sankol (56) was found in a burnt car at his farm at Bisleri village in the taluk on Sunday.

Chandrashekar Sankol

The Hadadi police suspect it to be suicide. According to the preliminary investigation, Sankol, a BJP leader, may have doused himself in petrol and set himself on fire.

Sankol, who was a corporator in ward number 43, was said to be reeling under financial crisis.

He was believed to have borrowed heavily. Upset over mounting debts, his son and daughter, aged 22 and 24 respectively, had attempted suicide recently. Sankol had slipped into depression following the suicide attempt by his children. He left his house to farm on Saturday night and was found dead in his car on Sunday morning, the police said.

The Hadadi police have registered a case of unnatural death and investigation is underway.

ON A FOGGY DAY

A vehicle moves through dense fog at the Chandradrona hill range near Chikkamagaluru on Sunday. PTI PHOTO

'Canter driver entirely at fault': HC ups relief to Rs 36.6L for victim's parents

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court has enhanced compensation to the family of a car driver killed in an accident on Kanakapura Road from Rs 9.22 lakh to Rs 36.58 lakh.

The court held that it was clear that the driver of the offending Canter truck was at fault as stated by an eyewitness.

The accident occurred around 6.30 pm on July 11, 2017, when Anil Kumar was driving his car towards Bengaluru from Kanakapura. On reaching Thoppaganahalli, the Canter truck hit the car, and Kumar died on the spot.

His parents moved the Bengaluru accident claims tribunal, seeking Rs 50 lakh as compensation, claiming that the deceased worked as a driver and earned Rs 40,000 per month. However, on December 31, 2018, the tribunal awarded Rs 9.22 lakh, noting that Kumar also contributed to the accident by negligence.

In their appeal against this order, the parents argued that contributory negligence must be specifically pleaded by the defendant.

They also submitted that the tribunal's recording that the eyewitness reached the spot after a crowd had gathered is misreading of evidence since the eyewitness clearly deposed regarding the negligence of the Canter driver.

Justice K Manmadha Rao noted that the elementary principle in deciding the contributory negligence is a specific pleading by the owner of the offending vehicle.

"The owner of the offending Canter has not appeared. The insurer, without any specific pleading and defence, has directly led the evidence of the driver of the truck," the court said.

The court mentioned the eyewitness statement that the deceased was driving the car "very slowly, cautiously, by observing all traffic rules and regulations, and on the correct side road of Kanakapura-Bengaluru main road.

The eyewitness said the Canter driver, "because of the curve road was driving the vehicle to its extreme right side without observing any traffic rules and regulations, and in a rash negligent manner, and endangering to human life, dashed against the Swift car, which was on correct side of the road, and caused the accident," the court said.

"It is crystal clear that the driver of the offending Canter was at fault. Hence, the finding of the tribunal regarding contributory negligence is incorrect. Hence, the entire negligence shifts upon the driver of the Canter," Justice Rao said, reworking the amount by taking the deceased's notional income as Rs 12,000 per month.

Four killed in accident in Bagalkot

BAGALKOT, DHNS: Four persons died after they fell from the trailer of a tractor near Kamathagi of Hungund taluk on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Rukminibai (28), Shivani Naika (6), Roshan Naika (4) and Pandu Naika (30).

They were all members of three families of Anekal tanda in Hagaribommanahalli taluk, and had travelled to Bagalkot for work in sugarcane fields.

The accident occured while they were returning home travelling by the trailer.

The bumper connecting the tractor to the trailer severed, as a result of which all the four fell onto the road. Rukminibai was pregnant. Amingad police have registered a case.

HC hikes compensation to homemaker injured in accident

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered Rs 10 lakh compensation with 6% interest to a homemaker from Bengaluru who sustained serious injuries when a motorcycle knocked her down.

"As per the rulings of the Supreme Court, housewives have to be granted compensation on the basis of the multifarious service rendered by them for managing the entire family," Justice K Manmadha Rao said.

The accident occurred on February 7, 2017, when Hema Kulkarni, a resident of JP Nagar, was hit by a motorcycle while walking on the road. She suffered a traumatic brain injury and other grievous injuries. She was admitted to a private hospital as an inpatient for 11 days, and underwent surgery and other medical procedures.

On January 4, 2019, a tribunal partly allowed her claim petition and awarded her Rs 6,98,500 with interest at 6% per annum. It directed the motorcycle owner to deposit the compensation.

Challenging this order, it was argued that the claimant is a homemaker and suffered traumatic brain injury and other grievous injuries and thus the amount awarded was meagre as she spent money on medication, including an operation.

The insurance company contended that while there is no dispute regarding the ownership of the motorcycle, the motorcyclist had no valid driving licence as on the date of the accident.

Justice Rao noted that the claimant underwent surgery and other complicated medical procedures.

"Considering the nature of grievous injuries, the claimant must have been under rest and treatment for a period of 6 months. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and the fact that claimant has undergone surgery and other complicated medical procedures, it is just and proper to enhance the compensation awarded by the tribunal. Therefore, the appellant-claimant would be entitled to a lump sum compensation of Rs 10,00,000, instead of Rs 6,98,500/- awarded by the tribunal," Justice Rao said.

The court negated the insurance company's defence on the tribunal exonerating it from paying compensation to the claimants on the ground that the rider did not possess valid driving license.

"..as per Sub-Section (2) of Section 149 of Motor Vehicles Act, when the insurance company has established rider was not holding valid driving licence, then as per Sub-sections (1), (4), (7) of Section 149 of the Motor Vehicles Act, the insurance company shall satisfy the claim in respect of third parties and then recover the same from the owner of the offending vehicle," the court said, directing the company to pay and recover the same from the vehicle owner.

'IPC Section 498A no panacea for matrimonial ills': High Court quashes dowry FIR

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed a dowry harassment FIR against a man, his parents and brother, observing that IPC Section 498A is not a panacea for all matrimonial ills.

The complaint covers incidents from 2017 to 2024, most of which have happened in the US, where the husband had lived with the complainant wife.

"What is more disquieting is, the indiscriminating roping in of the parents-in-law and brother-in-law, despite their residence in India, while the marital life was largely lived abroad," Justice M Nagaprasanna said.

The couple married on August 25, 2017, and relocated to San Antonio, Texas, US.

Six years later, in January 2023, the wife returned to India and filed a complaint at the Basavanagudi women police station. Police registered an FIR under IPC sections 498A and 504 as well as sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act against the husband, the parents-in-law and brother-in-law.

The family moved the high court, contending that the couple had minor issues that would happen in a marriage. Six years after the marriage, she alleged that the husband and other members of the family had harassed her over telephone. They further submitted that a lookout circular was also issued against the husband, stopping him from moving beyond the shores of the nation.

After perusing the complaint, Justice Nagaprasanna noted that it revealed grievances such as dietary restrictions, expectations regarding attire, allocation of household responsibilities, and disagreements over television preferences, laced with a statement that the husband treated the complainant wife as his servant.

"These allegations, even if accepted at face value, portray a portrait of marital discord, but fall woefully short of depicting the statutory cruelty contemplated under Section 498A of the IPC," the court said.

The court also noted that the allegations in the complaint, minor skirmishes that happen in the family between the husband and the wife are projected to become a crime for offences punishable under IPC section 498A or even under section 504.

"The law does not criminalise incompatibility, nor does it punish imperfect marriages. Section 498A of the IPC is not a panacea for all matrimonial ills. It is a targeted provision meant to address grave cruelty, conduct so willful and pernicious so as to imperil life, limb or mental health or even harassment tethered to unlawful demands of dowry. This is the purport of the provision 498A," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court further said, "The issuance of a lookout circular against the 1st petitioner (husband), on allegations so tenuous, would only compound injustice. Therefore, to permit the criminal process to lumber forward would be to allow law to become a weapon rather than a remedy."

CID team probing New Year's Day violence arrives in Ballari

BALLARI, DHNS: Officials of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) tasked with probing the four cases filed in connection with the violent incident that culminated with the death of a Congress worker on New Year's Day arrived in Ballari on Sunday.

The team of CID sleuths headed by SP Dr Harsha Priyamvada met Ballari district SP Suman Pennekar and received a briefing about the incident.

The CID sleuths also conferred with the Ballari cops who have been probing the four cases filed in connection with the violence. The CID officers then proceeded to the crime scene near BJP MLA G Janardhan Reddy's house in Havambhavi in Ballari city.

Local cops attached to the Brucepet police station provided all the relevant information about the incident to the CID sleuths.

SP Priyamvada declined to comment about new developments in the investigation.

However, Ballari SP Suman confirmed the CID team's arrival in the city. "We are currently in the process of handing over all the records to the CID team," Suman told *DH*.

'Police, CID puppets in govt's hands'

BJP MLA G Janardhana Reddy said, "Both the local police and CID officers are but puppets in the hands of the state government. Had the police worked efficiently, Congress MLA Bharath Reddy and his aide Satish Reddy would have been arrested by now. Justice will be served only if the investigation is helmed by the CBI or a judicial probe ordered into the incident. We will be holding a demonstration to demand a probe by a central agency on January 17th."

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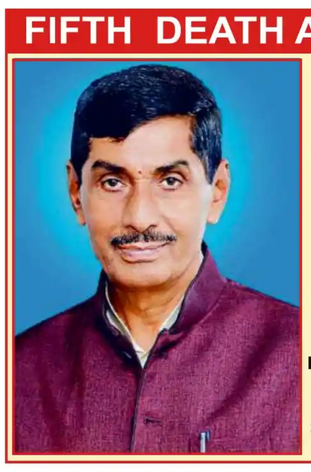
FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



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Dr. Varakala Rama Narasimha Reddy
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Fondly Remembered by :
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Sons: V Sridhar Reddy and V Shashidhar Reddy
Daughter-in-laws: Sumathi Reddy and Sravanthi Dandem,
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Twist in techie murder; cops say 18-year-old behind crime

Murder, From Page 1

While the body was sent for post-mortem, Scene Of Crime Officers (SOCO) and forensic analysts examined the flat and found no evidence linking the fire to a short circuit.

"Evidence pointed out that it was arson. The autopsy revealed that the woman died due to suffocation. This, along with technical evidence gathered during the probe, led us to arrest the suspect," a police officer who was part of the probe told *DH*. Police investigations revealed that Kurai allegedly sneaked into her flat through a sliding window around 9 pm and asked her to "cooperate sexually".

When Sharmila resisted, Kurai, using all his might, tightly held her mouth and nose, rendering her unconscious. During the struggle, she sustained bleeding injuries, police said. Kurai then went to the vacant bedroom, gathered Sharmila's clothes and other "incriminating material", and set them on fire to destroy evidence before fleeing with her mobile phone.

Kurai, who is 18 years and 3 months old, lives with his single mother in Bengaluru.

Police arrested him from his house on January 10 and secured his custody for three days. Further investigations are underway, an officer said.

He has been booked under BNS sections 103(1) (punishment for murder), 64(2) punishment for rape, 66 (punishment for causing death or resulting in persistent vegetative state of victim), and 238 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender).

Deaths of voters, BLO trigger TMC-BJP slugfest

Bengal SIR, From Page 1

"This is attributed to fear, intimidation and disproportionate workload due to unplanned exercise undertaken by the ECI," she wrote, urging Kumar to take "corrective actions" to "minimise the harassment, inconvenience and agony of the common citizen of the state".

Kumar has not yet replied to Mamata's letter, which, however, prompted Suvendu Adhikari, a frontrunner for the BJP's chief ministerial face for the Assembly elections, to send a strong riposte. Adhikari, the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, also wrote a letter to the CEC on Sunday, dismissing the complaints of the TMC supremo.

"One of the most egregious aspects of her letter is the attribution of 77 deaths, 4 suicide attempts and 17 hospitalisations directly to the SIR," Adhikari wrote to the CEC, adding: "These figures appear to be fabricated or opportunistically linked to unrelated incidents, much like during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the state health department under her leadership labelled every death as due to comorbidities to evade accountability for its mismanagement of healthcare and resources."

Dipankar, the son of Madan Ghosh, who died while waiting in the queue for the SIR hearing, said his father had been suffering from anxiety over the possibility of being struck out of the electoral rolls.

"Despite his name being present in the voter list for years, he was summoned, subjected to an inhuman process, and pushed into prolonged anxiety," Kalyan Ghosh, the local TMC legislator, alleged. The family of Kanchan Mandal also alleged that he had been under mental stress after he had been asked to appear for the SIR hearing, fearing disenfranchisement.

Hamimul's body was found hanging in a room at the school at Bhagabangola in Murshidabad, where he had been serving as a headmaster. "It was the additional burden of work that was imposed on my brother after being appointed as the BLO for the SIR that pushed him to take his own life," Forman-ul Islam, the elder brother of the deceased, said.

His death came close on the heels of the recovery of the body of another school teacher, Haradhan Mandal, who had also been appointed as a BLO in Bankura by the EC for the revision of the electoral rolls. Mandal, according to the police, left a note, conveying that he had decided to end his life as he had not been able to cope with the pressure of additional work assigned to him in connection with the SIR.

Take up 'sensitive, serious' matters where trial is held up: SC to HCs

Rajasthan HC took 23 years to reject plea of dowry-death accused

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has urged the Chief Justices of all high courts to ensure that the petitions where interim orders have been passed, holding up trials, be immediately taken up for hearing, more particularly in sensitive and serious matters like murder, dowry death, or rape.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Vishwanathan issued the request after finding it "very disturbing and very painful" that the Rajasthan HC took 23 years to reject a plea by a man and his family members against the framing of charges in a dowry-death case after staying the criminal proceedings in 2003.

Dismissing the plea filed by Vijay Kumar, husband of the deceased woman, and others against the HC's order, the bench said: "If criminal trials in such serious offences remain pending for years together on the strength of interim orders passed by the HCs, it would lead to nothing but mockery of justice."

In its order on January 8, the apex court emphasised that justice had to be done with all parties, and could not be done only with the accused, noting: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

It also said: "This litigation is an eye-opener for all the HCs across the country."

In this case, the apex court also posed several queries to the Rajasthan HC. "We would like to know first and foremost why it took 23 years for the HC to take up the criminal revision petition filed by the petitioners for hearing, more particularly when the subject matter of challenge was an order framing charge in a very sensitive and serious trial like one of dowry death," the bench said, adding that it would also like to examine the entire record of the proceedings. "We would also like to know from the Registrar General of the HC how many criminal revision petitions came to be heard and disposed of between 2001 and 2026," said the bench.

It also asked the state government to explain the steps it took as the prosecuting agency to get the criminal revision petition filed by the petitioners heard at the earliest.

"Why, during this interregnum period of 23 years, did the State of Rajasthan keep quiet and not take any steps to get the criminal revision petition heard and decided on merits?" asked the bench.

The court fixed the matter for further consideration on January 15.

KIA set for major technological upgrade this year

KIA, From Page 1

"AAI is also strengthening airspace surveillance through upgraded radar systems, ensuring accurate and reliable aircraft tracking in the terminal airspace, thereby improving situational awareness and operational resilience," he added.

The Aeronautical Message Switching System (AMSS) is being upgraded with the Aeronautical Message Handling System (AMHS) and integrated with ATC automation and other systems. The upgrade aims to ensure faster and secure exchange of aeronautical messages and operational data, supporting real-time coordination and improved information flow across ANS systems. Also in the pipeline is the upgradation of the Voice Communication Control System (VCCS), which will be updated to a next-generation, IP-based communication platform. The new VCCS will provide for more reliable voice communications between air traffic controllers, pilots and operational units. "These upgrades are aligned with the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) global standards and reflect AAI's strategic vision to deploy state-of-the-art ANS infrastructure. Once implemented, the modernised systems will support higher traffic volumes, reduce delays, and reinforce KIA's position as a major aviation hub in South India," Anbarasu said.

PELL-MELL ON THE ROAD

Vehicles and pedestrians are stuck in a jam as a large number of people flocked the busy Chickpet market area ahead of Sankranthi festival, in Bengaluru on Sunday. AFP PHOTO

Maha DSP's mother dies in accident

CHITRADURGA, DHNS: The Deputy Superintendent of Police (Anti-Corruption Bureau) of Kolhapur district in Maharashtra sustained injuries, while two others died in an accident involving a car and a lorry on the outskirts of Chitradurga in Tamatakallu on Sunday morning.

DSP Vaishnavi Suresh Patil, her mother Kamala Haribabu (65), relative Kusuma Patil, were travelling in a car, along with driver Rakesh (40) and police constable Udaysingh Patil, when the accident happened. Kamala and Rakesh lost their lives, while Vaishnavi, Kusuma and Udaysingh sustained injuries and are undergoing treatment. Having visited Tamil Nadu along with her family, Vaishnavi was returning to Kolhapur when tragedy struck. A case has been registered at rural police station.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at one or two places over the State.

Forecast Jan 12: Generally cloudy sky. Fog/Mist likely during early morning hours in some areas.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	27.4	15.8	0.0
Bidar	27.0	10.4	0.0
Vijayapura	28.0	-3.2	0.0
Dharwad	28.0	12.4	0.0
Haveri	28.4	11.8	0.0
Kalaburagi	30.8	15.2	0.0
Raichur	28.0	17.0	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	35.6	23.1	0.0
Karwar	34.2	22.2	0.0
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.5	22.9	0.0

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	0.0
Bengaluru	23.7	16.5	tr
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	--	--	--
Chikkamagaluru	--	--	--
Chitradurga	27.2	16.1	tr
Davangere	28.0	11.0	0.0
Hassan	28.6	9.0	0.0
Mysuru	27.0	16.8	2.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	23.8	15.4	0.0
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	16.0	6.0	NIL
Kolkata	22.0	12.0	NIL
Mumbai	29.0	24.0	NA
Chennai	27.0	26.0	NA
Pune	29.0	13.0	NA
Hyderabad	27.0	15.0	NA
Th'puram	33.0	25.0	NIL

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, RANCHI.
INFORMATION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Name: Anshika Kumari, Age: 04 years, Height: 2 feet 5 Inches, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Blue T-shirt and Blue Jeans.

The above mentioned missing girl Anshika Kumari, age-04 years, father-Sunil Kumar, village-Haldi Chhapra, Badal Tola, police station-Maner, district-Patna (Bihar), present address-Mausibari Khatal, Jagarnathpur police station-Dhurwe, district-Ranchi, who left her home on 02.01.2026 for grocery shop and has not returned home till date. In this regard, Dhurwa police station case number-01/2026 dated-03.01.2026 section-137 (2) BNS FIR No. has been registered and her search is being carried out. It is necessary to make the above information public.

Therefore, all members of the public are requested that if the above-mentioned missing girl is found anywhere, they should inform the Senior Superintendent of Police by contacting his office or the phone number given below.

Email ID (rnc-dcb@jhpolice.gov.in)

The person giving information will be given a reward of Rs. 2,000,00/- (two lakh).

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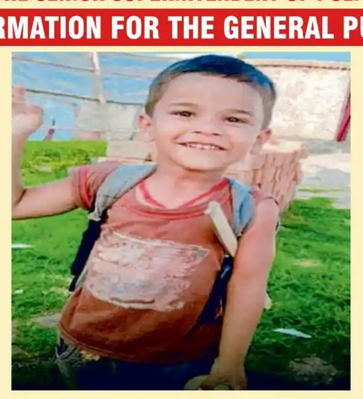
Superintendent of Police. Rural, Ranchi - 9431706138
Dy SP Hatiya - 9431706143 / 8709911997
Officer In Charge Dhurwa Police Station - 9431706166 / 9771333475

PR 370588 (Police)

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, RANCHI.
INFORMATION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



Name-Ansh Kumar, Age-05 years, Height-3 feet, Complexion-fair, Wearing yellow T-shirt and blue half pants

The above mentioned missing boy Ansh Kumar, age-05 years, father-Sunil Kumar, village-Haldi Chhapra, Badal Tola, police station-Maner, district-Patna (Bihar), present address-Mausibari Khatal, Jagarnathpur, police station-Dhurwa, district-Ranchi, who left his home on 02.01.2026 for grocery shop, has not returned home till date. In this regard, Dhurwa police station case number-01/2026, dated-03.01.2026, section-137 (2) BNS FIR No. has been registered and search is on for him. It is necessary to make the above information public.

Therefore, all members of the public are requested that if the above-mentioned missing girl is found anywhere, they should inform the Senior Superintendent of Police by contacting his office or the phone number given below.

Email ID (rnc-dcb@jhpolice.gov.in)

The person giving information will be given a reward of Rs. 2,000,00/- (two lakh).

Superintendent of Police, City, Ranch - 9431706137
Superintendent of Police. Rural, Ranchi - 9431706138
Dy SP Hatiya - 9431706143 / 8709911997
Officer In Charge Dhurwa Police Station - 9431706166 / 9771333475

PR 370590 (Police)

Govt demands source code from phone makers: Report

Phone, From Page 1

IT Secretary S Krishnan told Reuters that "any legitimate concerns of the industry will be addressed with an open mind", adding it was "premature to read more into it". A ministry spokesperson said it could not comment further due to ongoing consultation with tech companies on the proposals.

Among the most sensitive requirements in the new Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirements is access to source code - the underlying programming instructions that make phones work, Reuters reported, adding this would be analysed and possibly tested at designated Indian labs.

The proposals, the report said, also require companies to make software changes to allow pre-installed apps to be uninstalled and to block apps from using cameras and microphones in the background to "avoid malicious usage".

"Industry raised concerns that globally security requirement have not been mandated by any country," said a December IT ministry document detailing meetings that officials held with Apple, Samsung, Google and Xiaomi.

Meet on Tuesday

The security standards, drafted in 2023, are in the spotlight now as the government is considering imposing them legally. IT ministry and tech executives are due to meet on Tuesday for more discussions, Reuters said citing sources.

MAIT asked the ministry last week to drop the proposal, a source with direct knowledge said.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology also issued a statement, saying it "routinely conducts consultations on various aspects such as safety compliance".

"Following stakeholder consultations, detailed discussions are held with industry on different dimensions of security requirements. The Government remains committed to working closely with industry stakeholders and addressing their concerns in a constructive manner," the statement read.

The India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA), the apex body for the electronics industry, clarified that this is not a new issue.

"It is completely normal for the government to engage industry in such discussions — to ask technical and compliance questions and for the industry to respond with international practices and what might be possible or not," said Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman of ICEA, in a statement.

Iran warns it will target US, Israeli troops if attacked

Iran, From Page 1

"In the event of an attack on Iran, both the occupied territory and all American military centres, bases and ships in the region will be our legitimate targets," Qalibaf said.

"We do not consider ourselves limited to reacting after the action and will act based on any objective signs of a threat."

The comments by Qalibaf represent the first to add Israel into the mix of possible targets for an Iranian strike.

It remains unclear just how serious Iran is about launching a strike, particularly after seeing its air defences destroyed during the 12-day war in June with Israel. Any decision to go to war would rest with Iran's 86-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In the US, officials said Trump was seriously considering authorising a strike in response to the Iranian regime's efforts to suppress demonstrations set off by widespread economic grievances, but he has not made a final decision.

The president has been presented with a range of options, including strikes on nonmilitary sites in Tehran, the officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss confidential conversations.

Support for protesters

Trump has offered support for the protesters, saying on social media that "Iran is looking at FREEDOM, perhaps like never before. The USA stands ready to help!!!"

The State Department separately warned: "Do not play games with President Trump. When he says he'll do something, he means it."

With the internet down in Iran and phone lines cut off, gauging the demonstrations in Iran from abroad has grown more difficult.

In Mashhad, Iran's second-largest city, some 725km northeast of Tehran, footage purported to show protesters confronting security forces. Flaming debris and dumpsters could be seen in the street, blocking the road.

Mashhad is home to the Imam Reza shrine, the holiest in Shiite Islam, making the protests there carry heavy significance for the country's theocracy. Protests also appeared to happen in Kerman, 800km southeast of Tehran.

Those abroad fear the information blackout will embolden hard-liners within Iran's security services to launch a bloody crackdown, despite warnings from Trump that he's willing to strike Iran to protect peaceful demonstrators.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUBMISSION OF A SCHEME OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT FOR SSJV PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
AS PER SECTION 230 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013

SSJV Projects Private Limited (Corporate Debtor) is currently undergoing liquidation proceedings under the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 ("Code") and the undersigned has been appointed as its Liquidator pursuant to an order dated 27.11.2025 of Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru.

NOTICE is hereby given for inviting proposals for the expression of interest from the interested proposer(s) for submission of a scheme of compromise or arrangement under Section 230 of the Companies Act, 2013.

RELEVANT PARTICULARS		
1.	Name of corporate debtor	SSJV PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED
2.	Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	10th August 1998
3.	Authority under which Corporate Debtor is Incorporated/ Registered	Registered under Companies Act, 1956. Registrar of Companies, Karantaka
4.	Corporate Identity Number (CIN)	U45203KA1998PTC024063
5.	Address of the Registered Office and Principal Office (if any) of Corporate Debtor	No. 21/6, Ground Floor, Craig Park Layout, M G Road, Bengaluru- 560 001
6.	Liquidation commencement date of the corporate debtor	27th November 2025
7.	Date of invitation of expression of interest (EOI) for submission of scheme of compromise or arrangement	12th January 2026
8.	Last date for receipt of EOI	27th January 2026
9.	Last date for submission of scheme for compromise or arrangement	28th February 2026
10.	Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as Liquidator	Ravindra Beleyur Reg. No. IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00189/ 2017-18/10368
11.	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the liquidator	No. 428, 19th B Cross, 3d Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011 Tele: +91 80 26540193 Email: CIRP.SSJV@gmail.com

Note:
1. The Liquidator reserves the right to cancel or modify the terms of this advertisement and the process document without assigning any reason and without any liability.
2. The Liquidator reserves the right to withdraw the invitation for submission of Scheme under section 230 and/or change or alter any part thereof at any stage, should it be so necessary at any stage.
3. Scheme of Compromise or Arrangement, if proposed, shall be made by the Applicant on an "As is where is basis", "As is what is basis", "Whatever there is basis" and "No recourse" basis.
4. The Liquidator will not be providing any representations or warranties for the Company.
5. This is not an offer document and is being issued with no commitment

Sd/- (Ravindra Beleyur)
Liquidator in the matter of
SSJV Projects Private Limited under Liquidation

Date: 10th January 2026
Place: Bengaluru

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUBMISSION OF A SCHEME OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT FOR SHAPOS FARMS PRIVATE LIMITED (In Liquidation)
AS PER SECTION 230 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013

Shapos Farms Private Limited (Corporate Debtor) is currently undergoing liquidation proceedings under the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 ("Code") and the undersigned has been appointed as its Liquidator pursuant to an order dated 30th October 2025 of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru.

NOTICE is hereby given for inviting proposals for the expression of interest from the interested proposer(s) for submission of a scheme of compromise or arrangement under Section 230 of the Companies Act, 2013.

RELEVANT PARTICULARS		
1.	Name of corporate debtor	SHAPOS FARMS PRIVATE LIMITED
2.	Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	21st March 2022
3.	Authority under which Corporate Debtor is Incorporated/ Registered	Registered under Companies Act 2013 Registrar of Companies, Karantaka
4.	Corporate Identity Number (CIN)	U51909KA2022PTC159010
5.	Address of the Registered Office and Principal Office (if any) of Corporate Debtor	No. 1207/343, 9th Main, 7th Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560102
6.	Liquidation commencement date of the corporate debtor	30th October 2025
7.	Date of invitation of expression of interest (EOI) for submission of scheme of compromise or arrangement	12th January 2026
8.	Last date for receipt of EOI	27th January 2026
9.	Last date for submission of scheme for compromise or arrangement	28th February 2026
10.	Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as Liquidator	Beleyur Resolutions Private Limited Represented by its Director and Insolvency professional Ravindra Beleyur Reg. No. IBBI Reg No: IBBI/IPE-0163/IPA-1/2023-24/50073
11.	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the liquidator	Beleyur Resolutions Private Limited 'Shreevathsa', No. 428,19th B Cross, 3d Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011 Tele: +91 80 26540193 Email: cirp.shapos.farms@beleyur.com

Note:
1. The Liquidator reserves the right to cancel or modify the terms of this advertisement and the process document without assigning any reason and without any liability.
2. The Liquidator reserves the right to withdraw the invitation for submission of Scheme under section 230 and/or change or alter any part thereof at any stage, should it be so necessary at any stage.
3. Scheme of Compromise or Arrangement, if proposed, shall be made by the Applicant on an "As is where is basis", "As is what is basis", "Whatever there is basis" and "No recourse" basis.
4. The Liquidator will not be providing any representations or warranties for the Company.
5. This is not an offer document and is being issued with no commitment.

Sd/- (Ravindra Beleyur)
Liquidator in the matter of
Shapos Farms Private Limited under Liquidation

Date: 10th January 2026
Place: Bengaluru

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

ED-Mamata clash raises new concerns

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has got into its act even before the run-up to the State Assembly elections in West Bengal has begun. The confrontation between the central investigation agency and Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Mamata Banerjee is only set to aggravate in the coming weeks. There was much drama last week after the ED raided the offices of the Indian Political Action Committee (IPAC) in Kolkata and Delhi. IPAC is the TMC's political consultancy firm advising the party on the coming elections. Mamata Banerjee disrupted the raid in the IPAC office and prevented the ED from taking away material which she described as sensitive. She also took away some files which, according to her, contained details of the party's political strategy and voter deletions following the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. She described the raid as an "attack on democracy" and led a protest march against the ED and the Union government. TMC supporters took out a march to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's house in Delhi. The issue was taken to court, where the proceedings were stalled, and the ED has accused the TMC of obstructing the proceedings. The ED has approached the Supreme Court for relief.

The drama raises political, legal and Constitutional questions

The timing of the raids raises serious questions about the ED's claim that it is investigating a money-laundering operation in connection with an alleged coal smuggling syndicate. The searches were held under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) which has draconian provisions. Mamata Banerjee has alleged that the Union government is trying to undermine her election campaign through the ED. It has been alleged that a case which was registered years ago has now been revived with the elections in sight to embarrass the TMC and its government and to secure confidential political and election-related information.

Suspicions about the misuse of the investigative agency for a political or electoral purpose are not misplaced when there is a history of such misuse. Previous governments have also resorted to such misuse but the present government has deployed the agencies under its command against Opposition parties and governments like never before. Opposition parties and their leaders have been harassed before elections in all states in the past. The argument that those who are investigated have the right to prove their innocence is facile because the cases are prolonged for years. The conviction rates in such cases are very low. The ED raids on IPAC have to be seen in that light. But Mamata Banerjee's response is unusual and unprecedented. The obstruction of a raid conducted by a federal agency by a chief minister raises political, legal and even Constitutional questions.

Land grab: Don't spare the powerful

After Kogilu, it is now Thanisandra. In Kogilu, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd reclaimed encroached land; in Thanisandra, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) did the same. The government's renewed resolve to recover public land is welcome and long overdue in a city plagued by illegal settlements on lake beds, drains, and civic amenity sites. However, the manner in which this is executed raises troubling questions about empathy, equity and intent. Learning partially from the Kogilu backlash, the BDA provided temporary shelters and food to those displaced in Thanisandra. Even so, residents say they were evicted without notice and "treated like dogs". Such humiliation stings. Urban governance cannot rely solely on force; it must also acknowledge that the poorest are often the most visible, but not the most powerful, participants in land encroachment.

That points to a deeper malaise Bengaluru refuses to confront. The city's slums are not merely accidental clusters of poverty; many are products of a well-oiled informal land market where the underworld, local musclemen, politicians and corrupt officials operate in close cahoots. Encroachments rarely happen spontaneously. Land is identified, occupied overnight, and quickly populated to create a vote bank. Informal rents are collected and 'protection' promised in return. The most disturbing question is this: how is land that does not belong to the seller sold, and sometimes even registered? How do sub-registrars accept documents for government land, lake beds or stormwater drains? These transactions do not occur without official connivance. History offers uncomfortable reminders. Bengaluru has seen figures such as Slum Bharat, an underworld don shot dead in a police encounter. His power flowed directly from controlling slum settlements. In the 1990s, a Congress leader famously carried a 'slum' prefix to his name, and went on to become a minister. The nexus between slums, muscle power and electoral politics is neither new nor accidental.

Recovering public land is long overdue; do it with empathy and fairness

Equally glaring is the state's selective amnesia over the A T Ramaswamy report. Submitted in 2007, it exposed how tens of thousands of acres of government land were grabbed, often by the rich and influential, with active official collusion. While the poor face bulldozers, many of those named or implicated in that report continue to enjoy immunity. The Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act exists precisely to address this ecosystem. Used honestly, it can target not just the occupant of a shed but also the financier, instigator and protector behind the encroachment. Demolishing slums may make for strong visuals. Dismantling the mafia behind them, and the official corruption that sustains it, is the real test of political will. Until then, bulldozers will remain symbols of power, not justice.

DYNAMICS OF CONSERVATION

Reimagining tiger safaris

The recent ban should be used to bring about a genuine shift in thinking and move towards 'nature positive' tourism

SESHADRI K S

Over the last two months, a spate of unfortunate attacks by tigers have claimed human life outside protected areas, such as the Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserves in Karnataka.

People living in the areas are enraged and the tiger safari industry has been blamed for it. For over a month, safaris have been grounded in both the reserves. The wildlife tourism industry is aggrieved by the ban and has called for a scientific study on the impact of wildlife safaris. The State Board of Wildlife has promptly ordered a study to assess the impact of tiger tourism as well.

While the stakeholders want a swift resolution, the Government of Karnataka now has an opportunity to make a difference on the ground and ensure the impact assessment does not end up being a bureaucratic exercise.

Regulated by the Forest Department or Jungle Lodges and Resorts, safaris operate twice daily in specific zones of the reserve using modified four-wheelers or a minibus.

These safaris can be expensive and exclusive as bookings typically need to be made online. These three-to-four-hour long safari rides are intended for people to observe wildlife. Accompanying naturalists broaden the focus beyond large carnivores to include all flora and fauna. There are caps on the number of vehicles that can enter the safari zones, and the use of mobile phones is prohibited in the forest. Safari drivers are restricted from coordinating with others and congregating upon sighting a large carnivore.

While safaris are innocuous, the process has several flipsides. Each vehicle driving in the forest incrementally adds to the non-natural air and noise pollution.

The continuous stream of vehicles causes what is known as a 'barrier effect', preventing animals from moving as they would normally. On rare occasions, animals may be disturbed by flocks of vehicles surrounding them, and they may alter their activity periods.

Maintaining view lines by pruning shrubs and saplings may alter forest composition in unknown ways. Vehicle movement also impacts smaller creatures, such as insects or snakes, which may be run over by vehicles.

Each passing vehicle compacts the soil, too, and in the dry season, leaves behind a cloud of dust, which settles on vegetation along the roads. The dust can affect the photosynthetic activity of leaves or make them unpalatable.

Roads fragment habitats and create what is called the 'edge-effect', where environmental conditions are drastically different from those in undisturbed habitats. Invasive plants spread in such areas.

While the immediate impact on the environment is somewhat measurable, there are other issues with the tourism industry that are often not associated with wildlife safaris.

Scaling tourism infrastructure to meet the increased demand results in increased fossil-fuel consumption from driving to these locations, water demand, greywater discharge, and solid waste.

The tourism industry has taken steps, such as moving away from using plastic bottles and employing locals in their businesses, but many such actions remain a token gesture. The impact of the supply-chain side of wildlife tourism remains ignored or unknown.

Ironically, tourism draws in resources from afar into the forest while people living there are evicted or relocated elsewhere to reduce impact.

Against this backdrop, the order to study the impact of tourism is a good starting point to take a holistic approach to understand and course correct the wildlife tourism sector.

Irrespective of who ends up making the assessment, complex issues need to be addressed.

In 2021, following an order by the National Green Tribunal, the Karnataka government constituted a study to assess the carrying capacity of the eco-sensitive zones of Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Nugu Wildlife Sanctuary.

The authors adopted a 'systems dynamics' approach to determine the carrying capacity of the region. A 'systems thinking' framework is useful because it considers the interrelationships inherent to complex systems.

It uses models, stock and flow diagrams to determine how changes in one step affect the entire complex process. While all models can be wrong, some models are more useful than others.

Taking a systems approach will take the conversation beyond a ban and make space to formulate actionable policies. For instance, the number of safaris could be tied to measurable ecological health indicators or mandate a proportion of tourism revenue to be reinvested towards compensation for crop loss or loss of life for people who live amid tigers, apart from making the industry more inclusive than it already is.

It is tragic that the much-needed conversation about tiger tourism had to be triggered by the loss of life to tigers. The current ban on safaris must not be viewed as a cooling-off period to ease the genuine concerns of locals living amid tigers but must emerge as a turning point for conservation.

Treating tiger reserves as theme parks in an increasingly fragmented landscape will only attract conflict and resentment. The industry as well as the government should move away from boilerplate interpretations of 'ecotourism' or 'sustainable tourism' and put nature above all.

A perspective shift to 'nature positive' tourism is essential. Doing so will not only minimise environmental harm but also actively invest in nature restoration in tourist destinations.

This would necessitate all stakeholders of the industry to move away from viewing tourists as a source of income and towards conserving our diminishing wilderness areas.

However, the state has the wherewithal to correct this. Ultimately, tourism must stop taking from nature and start giving back. Only then can we move from a state of conflict to a state of coexistence.

(The writer is an ecologist and a faculty member at ATREE)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

When cricket met *gilli danda*

A makeshift bat and open field changed the entire game

HABEEB AHAMED

Paradoxically, whether cricket evolved from *gilli danda* or the other way round remains an enigma. Let us construe it as an individual's perception shaped by personal experience.

In the mid-sixties, when I was in my early teens, a cricket match between India and Australia was underway. It was a festive season for children, as our summer holidays coincided with the series. The match was on a knife's edge – a tooth-and-nail tug of war between the two teams. Cricket enthusiasts were tensely involved in every moment of play. Given an opportunity, they would have replaced a deplorable performer instantly; such was the intensity.

My three neighbourhood friends and I were no exception. We were practically naïve, though aware of the basics of the game. Resolute about practising, we had a tennis ball but no bat. So we fetched a wooden plank suitable for chiselling and shaped it into a bat using whatever kitchen tools were available. Once done, we sleeved the handle with a cycle tube, and the bat was ready.

For practice, we chose the Jayanagar Fourth Block ground in south Bengaluru, where the famed shopping complex was built later. It was a large ground, always filled with children – some playing cricket, some football and others *gilli danda*.

On reaching the ground, we found a few acquaintances playing *gilli danda*. We lured them into joining us to form a team. After all, play is play, and fun is the end result. Using bricks as wickets, we began. By mutual agreement, we set a rule: each player gets six deliveries to bat and bowl, turn by turn. While two were on the pitch batting, one would bowl and another keep wickets; the rest would field. The game began very well, and everyone was happy.

After a few strokes, one batsman connected hard with the ball. The bat could not withstand the impact and broke into pieces. Along with it, the gusto of each one of us shattered to dust. An utter disappointment for all nine.

"What next?" was the obvious question. We knew grumbling would serve no purpose. Sportingly, after a brief period of contemplation, we decided to play *gilli danda* until we could procure another bat, having come this far. Fortunately, the friends who joined us later for a game of cricket had a *gilli danda* set with them.

I had played *gilli danda* earlier, on the streets opposite my house. That, however, was a restricted form of play – no hard hitting, constant vigilance for passers-by and so on. Free from such constraints on the open field, I played wholeheartedly and revelled in the thrill. Soon, I became conversant with the game, and we played until evening that day.

Gradually, my fascination with cricket faded and was replaced by *gilli danda*. It was largely a matter of convenience – no investment and greater fun. Slowly, we professionalised the game and began holding matches between localities. More often than not, we emerged victorious. From cricket to *gilli danda*, it was an evolution driven by convenience.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A vital course correction for Bannerghatta

I refer to 'Reclaiming ESZ a vital course correction' (Jan 10). The Central Empowered Committee's recommendation to restore the original eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around Bannerghatta National Park is a timely and necessary intervention. The 2020 dilution stripped protection from nearly 100 sq km of buffer land, inviting unchecked development and ecological degradation. Bannerghatta's transitional landscape is vital for sustaining biodiversity and mitigating human-wildlife conflict. With over 100 elephants and key wildlife corridors, shrinking the ESZ compromises not just conservation but also public safety. Urban proximity must not justify ecological neglect. Restoration may be complex, but it is imperative. Compensatory afforestation cannot replicate the nuanced ecological functions of buffer zones. The Supreme Court must act decisively to reclaim this space – not just for wildlife, but for the long-term environmental health of Bengaluru and its citizens. Let this be a course correction with conviction.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Clear the air

Apropos 'States will get additional funds under VB-G RAM G Act: H D Kumaraswamy' (Jan 11), brushing aside the Karnataka Chief Minister's concerns does not answer how the VB-G RAM G Act will function on the ground. Political rebuttals cannot replace transparent explanations on who ultimately pays for these employment schemes. Citizens deserve clarity on whether the Centre is genuinely increasing support or merely rebranding responsibilities. Without clear budgetary guidelines, states may be forced to stretch already strained welfare funds while the Centre claims credit for reforms.
Ariba Moinm, Bengaluru

Protecting provocateur?

The Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Bill has exposed a glaring irony: those who frequently invoke the threat to democracy are often the first to shield the architects of social discord. While the Governor's 'under consideration' status reflects a necessary constitutional pause, the Opposition's frantic resistance reveals a deeper fear – the loss of a right to incite. By labelling a law meant to curb hostility as draconian, the Opposition effectively argues that disharmony is a price the public must pay for political rhetoric. Is their dissent truly about free speech, or a desperate attempt to protect the ecosystem of provocation that fuels their relevance? True democracy requires accountability, not the immunity to spread ill-will.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Today, we have become the world's fourth-largest and fastest-growing economy... A wave of development is sweeping across the country.
Piyush Goyal, Union Minister

I wish politicians the world over would stop claiming credit for economic growth that happens despite them, not because of them. Grow up...
Ziad K Abdelnour

TO BE PRECISE

Govt proposes smartphone makers to give source code in security overhaul

IN PERSPECTIVE

Maduro's capture: The US way, again

What has drawn attention is Washington's renewed emphasis on enforcing its influence in the Western Hemisphere

KOENA LAHIRI

Regime change is back in fashion, and the target this time is the oil-rich Bolivarian Republic. A section of the US media had been growing hoarse, loudly moralising and repackaging the old narrative for weeks. On January 3, Caracas was bombed, approximately 40 people were killed, and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was captured. Democracy exported, the American way.

Since the beginning of his second term, Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened coercive action against the Maduro administration. He cast the Venezuelan dictator as one of the world's largest narcotraffickers and placed a $50-million bounty on his head. Apparently, Maduro's Trump-style kinaesthetic expression did not endear him to the White House.

Another indication of an impending armed operation was the US National Security Strategy (NSS) released on December 4, 2025. Referred to as the Trump Corollary, it explicitly reaffirmed US dominance over the Western Hemisphere by invoking the Monroe Doctrine. The Pentagon had been steadily preparing the ground since August 2025, strengthening air and naval deployments in the Caribbean, including the arrival of a nuclear-powered submarine.

Historically, Venezuela's resources have shaped both its alliances and its vulnerability. Before oil nationalisation in 1976, the petroleum sector was dominated by multinational corporations such as Texaco, Chevron and Exxon, making Venezuela a key US ally. Yet oil wealth entrenched extreme inequality. Hugo Chávez disrupted this order by redistributing resource rents through social programmes, fundamentally altering Venezuela's political economy and its alignment with Washington. The geopolitical realignment that followed — including closer ties with China, Russia, Iran and Cuba — only deepened US hostility.

In this case, the joke, though tragic, is the Grand Old Party's intellectual laziness on display — recycling the narrative once used to sell the Iraq invasion. Venezuelan boats allegedly carrying fentanyl were upgraded to Weapons of Mass Destruction. The bloody outcome when these word games were last rallied around by the Neo-Cons has not yet faded from collective memory. Then the objective was Iraq's natural resources; this time it is Venezuela's. The Bolivarian Republic holds one of the world's largest reserves of heavy crude oil, along with rich deposits of gold and rare earths.

It was also the brazenness that was unnerving. POTUS declared after the attack that Venezuelan oil and land should be "returned" to American companies, and that the US would "run" Venezuela until a preferred administration assumed power. Even the pretence of a "civilising mission" was done away with. It's a blatant attempt at establishing geopolitical supremacy for the exploitation of natural resources — a perfect blend of classical and neo-colonialism, the American way.

Years of economic warfare preceded Washington's military operation Absolute Resolve. During Trump's first term, sanctions on Caracas were escalated under the moral pretext of human rights and democratic erosion. From 2017 onwards, Venezuela's access to US financial markets — including that of Petróleos de Venezuela, SA (PdVSA) — was choked, even as exemptions protected US interests.

John Bolton has stated with unusual candour that Washington does not seek democracy in Venezuela *per se*, but a political order aligned with US interests. This logic shaped US actions in 2019, when the Trump administration recognised Juan Guaidó as interim president — a move endorsed by nearly 60 states. When Maduro proved resilient, Washington tacitly welcomed Guaidó's failed coup attempt.

Oil remains central to this political engineering. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Western sanctions on Russian energy, Caracas sought leverage through petroleum diplomacy. Washington, keen to stabilise prices ahead of the 2022 elections, briefly set aside decades of hostility to negotiate, revealing principle as contingent, not fixed.

What has drawn global attention — including from India — is Washington's renewed emphasis on enforcing its sphere of influence in the Western Hemisphere. Trump's Corollary brings back the imperial ways of the 19th century, when the sovereign sanctity of nations was repeatedly violated to fulfil the greed of the colonial empire. If such logic is mirrored by Russia in Ukraine or China in its periphery, the result may be a world of hardened spheres of influence, each policed through force. This is not reassuring for India, as it might easily find itself embedded in one such sphere.

The Caracas bombing further solidifies the claim that the rules-based order is completely up in flames, with international organisations effectively losing the negligible authority they had in the first place. The anarchical fabric of international politics once again has only one prominent element — brute power.

Despite Trump's claims of taking over the Venezuelan state, Vice President Kelcy Rodriguez has been appointed the interim leader by the court of the land. The Venezuelan military also remains largely undisturbed. What is clear, however, is the message sent to Latin America: opposition to US interests will not be tolerated. Regime change, once again, appears to be Washington's preferred instrument.

(The writer is Policy Research Associate, Pune International Centre)

'We will discover cosmic explosions we missed all these years'

Last year, Yale University astrophysicist Priyamvada Natarajan became only the second scientist of Asian origin in 45 years to win the prestigious Dannie Heineman Prize, awarded jointly by the American Institute of Physics and the American Astronomical Society. Originally from Coimbatore and raised in New Delhi, Natarajan was at Ashoka University recently. She also participated in an open house discussion in Delhi and spoke to DH. Excerpts:

Priyamvada Natarajan, *Astrophysicist at Yale University, in conversation with* **Kalyan Ray**

THE DEEP TAKE

The physics and astronomy community never imagined the mathematical solution would correspond to real objects in the universe. But in the 1960s they first found evidence for its existence from X-ray observations.

●Where do black holes come from?
Thanks to Subramanian Chandrasekhar's work, we know if a star starts life with a birth mass that is quite heavy, maybe 10 times as massive as our sun, it will end its life inevitably as a black hole. But those are very small black holes. The ones that we see at the centres of galaxies are a million and a billion times the mass of the sun. For the last 25-30 years, people have been trying to understand how they form. We now find these black holes farther and farther back in time. This means they are assembling really early in the universe.

●This brings me to your research about cosmic dawn and heavy-seeded black holes. Can you elaborate?
Around 10 years ago, we started finding these black holes that are a billion times the mass of the sun. They were already in place when the universe was a fraction of its current age of 13.8 billion years. There wasn't enough time to start from a little seed. One of the first projects I worked on with my team was to see if there are any ways to have a black hole that will start life much more massive as a heavy seed. Can it be born with 1,000, 10,000 or even 100,000 times the mass of the sun? I discovered that such heavy-seeded black holes can form in the very early universe under very special conditions that we described as direct collapse formation of black holes. We had predicted in 2017 there should be a class of galaxies that would carry the imprint of such heavy-seeded black holes, and the James Webb Space Telescope should be able to see such imprints. We just did not know when.

●What was the nature of your prediction?
Since the black hole is dominant, such a galaxy, even if it is very, very far away, should be visible both in the X-ray by the Chandra Space Telescope and by the James Webb. These objects were probably formed when the universe was just 500 million years old, after the Big Bang. That's really far away, and they have to be really bright to be detected. But there is another thing called gravitational lensing. We thought if we are lucky, we have one of these guys behind the lens, which will then magnify it and allow James Webb to detect it.

●And did it happen like that?
Yes, James Webb detected it in 2023. This object is called UHZ1. It was magnified about four times. Had it not been magnified, we wouldn't have seen it. This object, as we had predicted, was simultaneously detected by Chandra and by James Webb. I felt it was a gift from the universe.

●Is there only one sighting by James Webb?
We made a case that this particular object is a very compelling example for direct collapse formation of black holes. Later on we also showed that such direct collapse can happen under different conditions. Now there is growing evidence that direct collapse is happening at later times. There is a class of objects called little red dots that James Webb is seeing. Many of them look like they could be explained by direct collapse, but they are not as heavy.

●How do you see the future of astronomy?
While black holes and galaxies grow simultaneously, black holes can also grow by crashing into each other, and their signature is gravitational waves. We have seen gravitational waves from stellar-mass black holes but not from supermassive black We expect to see such gravitational waves with LISA satellites, which the Europeans are going to launch in the 2030s. Moreover, James Webb is likely to throw in many more surprises. The old telescopes like the Hubble and Chandra are still working. And we have the ground-based Vera Rubin Observatory that is going to survey the sky every night. We are going to discover new kinds of events and new kinds of explosions that we missed all these years.

Researchers are not just worried about the virus popping up on American farms. Other types are causing trouble around the world

APOORVA MANDAVILLI

In the United States, the term 'bird flu' has become synonymous with a particular virus that has devastated poultry and dairy farms over the past few years. But that virus, called H5N1, is not the only form of bird flu in circulation. THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mounting worries among scientists over bird flu viruses

In the United States, the term bird flu has become synonymous with a particular virus that has devastated poultry and dairy farms over the past few years. But that virus, called H5N1, is not the only form of bird flu in circulation. Concerned scientists are keeping a close eye on other types, including a fast-changing flu virus called H9N2.

In a study published in November, researchers in Hong Kong showed that over the last decade, this virus has acquired mutations that allow it to spread more efficiently among people and to cause more severe disease.

H9N2 is often discounted as a threat, because it causes only mild symptoms in poultry. But in people, especially children, the virus can cause more severe illness than the seasonal flu.

There have been fewer than 200 reported cases of H9N2 in humans since 1998, but the number has been rising sharply. China reported 29 human cases of H9N2 last year, compared with 11 in 2024.

Those numbers, though, are likely to be underestimates, because many infected people are never tested and the virus may spread undetected, said Kelvin To, a clinical microbiologist who led the November study.

"If it continues to be widely circulating in poultry, mammals and humans, it may certainly one day evolve into something very serious," To said.

Researchers like To have long feared that the next pandemic will be caused by a flu virus, and the new report suggests that mutating H9N2 bears watching. But it is not the only one.

H5N1 is "the headline stealer," said Richard Webby, an influenza expert at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. It has infected poultry and mammals worldwide, leaving behind economic devastation.

But, he added, "some of these other subtypes may have just as much, if not more, capacity for human infection and spread than H5N1."

In September, health officials in Mexico identified the first human infection of a highly pathogenic bird flu virus called H5N2. The patient was severely ill and hospitalized, but survived.

And in November, a resident of Washington state died of an infection with another type, H5N5, the first human known to have contracted the virus. H5N5 tends to circulate among birds along the Atlantic coast, so its presence in the West surprised some scientists.

In the United States, H5N1 continues to be the primary threat. The virus is reported to have infected 71 people, killing one, and has affected nearly 185 million commercial, backyard and wild birds since January 2022, when it was detected in wild aquatic birds in the United States.

Since March 2024, when the first dairy cows were found to be infected, H5N1 has also been detected in 1,084 cattle herds in 19 states. The longer H5N1 persists, infecting animals and birds across the country, the greater the chances are that it will evolve the ability to spread efficiently among people.

A study in 2024 suggested that in a laboratory setting, a single mutation could tip H5N1 into a variant capable of causing a pandemic.

Last month, the Agriculture Department announced that the bird flu virus H5N1 was detected in a dairy herd in Wisconsin for the first time.

It was the third instance of the virus jumping from wildlife to dairy cattle last year; two other spillover events were detected early in the year in Nevada and Arizona. Each new spillover underscores the ongoing threat from the virus's ability to jump species.

Last year, the Trump administration dismantled biosecurity work at the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, gutted the White House office of pandemic preparedness, and cut support for the surveillance of pandemic threats within the United States and abroad.

With the exception of a few announcements from the Agriculture Department early last year, the administration has not held briefings on the threat posed by bird flu or efforts to prepare for worst-case scenarios.

The Agriculture Department and Secretary Brooke Rollins have spoken about bird flu to the news media and at Cabinet meetings throughout last year, the department said in an emailed statement.

The department's response to bird flu "is grounded in decades of scientifically validated epidemiological practices and biosecurity protocols," the statement said.

The Health Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

With funding cuts made in the last year by the Trump administration, many infectious disease experts say the United States is less prepared for a flu pandemic now than it was a year ago.

The number of animal species that H5N1 has been found to infect has increased in the last two years to dozens of mammalian species, from the mundane (raccoons and house cats) to the more exotic (vampire bats, vultures, ostriches and even an arctic fox.)

As the number of host species expands, "you're setting up a scenario where you're going to have at least more sporadic human infections," said Nahid Bhadelia, director of the Boston University Centre on Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Clinicians may incorrectly diagnose the symptoms of a novel bird flu infection, making it challenging to respond to an emerging crisis quickly enough, Bhadelia said.

In late 2024, two people, a 13-year-old Canadian girl and a Louisiana resident over 65, became seriously ill with bird flu. The girl was placed on life support because of organ failure, but she eventually recovered. Scientists still do not know how she became infected.

The Louisiana patient, who had underlying health conditions and had interacted with infected backyard birds, died in early January 2025. (The Washington resident died in November of an infection with H5N5 also acquired that virus from backyard flocks.) For now, the precautions for people remain the same: Do not touch sick or dead birds or other animals; get tested if you have flu-like symptoms; and do not consume raw milk or meat or feed them to your pets.

Some experts said they worried about the commingling of bird flu and seasonal flu viruses. When two types of flu viruses infect the same animal, they can exchange genetic material and generate new subtypes.

"The concern there is that H5N1 will pick up some genetic elements from the seasonal flu virus that makes it more able to infect and spread amongst humans," Webby said. "So it's clearly a risk, but luckily, we haven't seen it yet."

The current flu season is shaping up to be especially severe, featuring a virus that has picked up at least seven mutations that allow it to sidestep immunity against infection.

The commingling of people and various species at live animal markets offers countless opportunities for viruses to swap mutations and gain new abilities. One analysis in Vietnam identified six types of bird flu viruses, including H5N1 and H9N2, circulating at live bird markets.

The US is less prepared for a flu pandemic now than it was a year ago. There are a few million doses of vaccine against H5N1 stockpiled by the federal government for use in an emergency.

But Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr has called the stockpiled shots "dangerous," raising concerns about his willingness to ramp up production should more doses be needed. Kennedy also cancelled nearly $600 million in contracts to develop a bird flu vaccine using mRNA, the technology that powered Covid shots and that is thought to be the best bet for a vaccine in a fast-moving outbreak.

The New York Times

Gen Free of modern India

AIR VICE MARSHAL MANMOHAN BAHADUR (RETD)

Gen X, Y and Z dominate discussions in social circles, especially on social media. Encyclopaedia Britannica terms Gen X as being born between 1965 and 1980, and those before as 'baby boomers'–because of the sudden population growth after World War II. These are Western classifications that have become generalised worldwide. However, being called a 'baby boomer' does not gel for someone born in the 1950s (like this writer) in a newly independent India; in the present drive of decolonisation of ideas, being called Gen Free of modern India would be more apt. Now, the arrival of Gen Alpha accelerates our antique value.

Life was not rosy in 1947 when India was unshackled. Poverty was omnipresent. My school life began in 1960 in a small town, Shahdol (MP), sitting on a *taat-patti* (coir strips placed on the ground) with students writing on slates with chalk. The blackboard, if there was one, was given a coat of coal slurry by us kids every few days to keep it black. A move to Bhopal brought in notebooks and pencils – just around the time when the Ambassador car displaced the old Landmaster.

Gen Free are the human equivalents of the Ambassador car that carried India's load for four decades, before the glitzy Maruti 800 displaced it. So, it hurts us 'oldies' when many present-day youths say that we didn't do much to modernise India. If the foundation laid by our leaders at Independence had not been strong, we would not be sitting on a $4-trillion economy now. A look around at the state of our neighbours (who became independent with us) would show what great men and women helmed us; that we have stayed a democracy is all due to them. We, the Gen Free, grew up in the IITs, IIMs, National Defence Academy *et al* and were the foot soldiers of those visionary leaders who established these institutions in the initial years of Independence.

Independent India was fortunate to have temples of two kinds – the religious ones and those that the Bhakra Nangal Dam, the Bhilai Steel Plant and the Indian Institute of Science came to represent. And as we aim to send Indian astronauts on indigenous launch vehicles, Gen X to Z must remember that ISRO's foundation has its roots in the Ambassador car era. We were the children of the 1950s and 1960s and grew up on that iconic Mohammad Rafi song, *Hum laaye hain toofan se kishti nikal ke, is desh ko rakhna mere bachhon sambhal ke*. Yes, we did not have social media to broadcast our nationalism, but we had the sagacity to take out *prabhat pheris* (morning processions) in our small towns on Independence Day and show our love for the country. An Eknath Solkar, breaking into a smile and hitching up his trousers on taking an Australian test wicket in the 1960s, spoke as much as a Mohammad Siraj going on a wild celebration spree after bowling an English batsman out in the 2025 cricket test series.

Gen Free has seen social mores change rapidly these past seven decades, which is normal, unless you Talibanise your society and stay in the past. The joint family has given way to a nuclear one, with the *hum do hamare do* slogan spearheading the family planning drive. The medical field has been a big beneficiary of scientific discovery, with the average life span of Indians increasing from 32 years in 1947 to 72 years in 2022. One big blot, however, has been the use of technology to target the female child. While the female form is worshipped as a goddess in many religious rituals, the well-being of the girl child and women needs special attention. Here, I have a suggestion for one particular Gen Free Indian who can make a big difference to help remove this societal stain.

The government has made rules for gender equality, but religious preachers, who have a major say in shaping societal views, play an important part by becoming gender neutral when they wish something good for young couples starting their life together. In all religious rituals, why should it only be a boy and not a girl being requested from God by a *pujari*? I posed this question to a *panditji* during the naming ceremony of our grandchild, but all I got back was a stare. If religious preachers lead the way and invoke the Almighty in our *pujas* for a gender-neutral wish, then it would be one big step towards moulding societal attitudes towards a girl child – the *beti bachao, beti padhao* campaign would get a real boost.

In the New Year, the progenitor of this slogan, a Gen Free himself, may like to exhort religious teachers through his *Mann ki Baat* to use this idea. All other governmental initiatives aside, this changed approach in religious rituals would be one reform that would be remembered in perpetuity–the 'Reform Express', mentioned by him recently, could have this change as its vanguard.

(The writer is a former Additional Director General, Centre for Air Power Studies)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 1976

Peking weeps for Chou

Peking, Jan 11
Hundreds of thousands of weeping mourners lined the streets of Peking today to watch a procession apparently carrying the body of Prime Minister Chou En-lai from the hospital where it had been lying in State over the week-end. The motorcade of about 80 limousines included a small bus bedecked with black-and-yellow rosettes which was assumed to be carrying the body. The huge crowds stretched for miles along the avenue of eternal tranquility. There was no prior announcement of the procession.

25 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 2001

Indonesia backs India on UN seat, Kashmir issue

Jakarta, Jan 11
In a significant move, Indonesia today supported India's claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Indonesia, which itself was interested to become the UN Security Council member, wanted two seats for Asia in the Council. Since Indonesia, a recent convert to democracy, is passing through a process of political and economic transformation, is not interested now in this coveted position instead, it wants another seat in the Council for Japan.

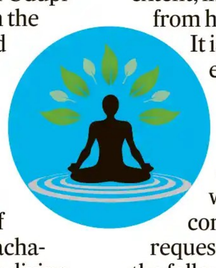
OASIS | SANDHYA VASUDEV

The unique detox

It is not uncommon for age to become a topic of discussion in social gatherings. Sometimes, youngsters inadvertently highlight an elderly person's age, showing a lack of sensitivity. They might attribute certain behaviours or events to the person's age, when in reality, such things can happen to anyone, regardless of age.

Be that as it may, age is no bar for learning when knowledge is a tap away on one's device or is obtained through the good old way—books. Additionally, getting to learn through venerable spiritual leaders is an opportunity hard to come by for commoners and harder to forego for learning enthusiasts.

So when I learnt that an irrepressible orator and teacher, Sree Sree Vishwapriyatheertha Swamiji of Udupi Admar Mutt, was to explain the *Sumadhwa Vijaya* authored by Narayana Panditacharya, I jumped on to the bandwagon of students. The book, in high-level Sanskrit, is a hagiographic description of the life of the exalted saint and founder of Dvaita philosophy, Madhwacharya, and indeed it is through divine inspiration that the esteemed swamiji has embarked upon enlightening the seekers. He is no ordinary teacher, as he leaves no stone unturned in explaining every word to the fullest extent, interpreting hidden meanings from his deep personal knowledge.



It is a delight to listen to such an exalted teacher.

Apart from online sessions, the live classes held at his *ashram* in Udupi exude an aura that is beyond words. My husband, who had come along one day upon my request, continued to do so on all the following days, drawn towards the lively session.

"Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher," goes a Japanese proverb. A confusion regarding an orthodox practice that had been bothering me got cleared by him within no time with an apt solution. With a good teacher, you learn without actually seeming to.

It was a spiritual lesson, but the crowd of *jigyasus* – curious, eager learners – were in splits every now and then due to the humour embedded in the *guru*'s verbal expressions. With our teacher and the *ashram* deity facing each other from a distance, and the students, from 30s to 70s, on all sides, I had the experience of a unique *gurukul* – truly a detox.

I-PAC raids: ED moves SC over 'interference'

Seeks CBI probe against obstruction by Mamata govt

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

COAL SCAM PROBE

- ED accuses Mamata, state police of obstruction
- Agency demands neutral CBI inquiry
- TMC govt files caveat
- Calcutta HC to hear dispute on Jan 14

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has approached the Supreme Court, seeking a CBI probe into alleged interference and obstruction by the West Bengal government during its January 8 raids at the Kolkata offices of political consultancy firm Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) and at the residence of its director Pratik Jain, in connection with money laundering charges linked to the multi-crore coal scam.

The West Bengal government, meanwhile, has filed a caveat, requesting a hearing before any order is passed by the apex court.

The ED alleged that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, along with the state police, obstructed its search operations and removed physical and electronic evidence, impeding the discharge of its statutory functions.

According to the agency, the raids were part of a probe into a 2020 case registered by the CBI against a coal smuggling syndicate accused of illegally excavating coal from Eastern Coalfields' leasehold areas in and around Asansol in Paschim Bardhaman district.

It alleged that a hawala operator linked to the coal smuggling racket facilitated transactions worth tens of crores of rupees to Indian PAC Consulting Pvt Ltd, the registered company of I-PAC.

"I-PAC is also one of the entities linked to hawala money," the agency claimed. It maintained that the proceedings on Thursday were being conducted peacefully and professionally until the chief minister's arrival.

The ED alleged repeated obstruction and non-cooperation by the state administration and sought directions for an independent inquiry by the CBI, as a neutral central agency is necessary in view of the alleged interference by the state executive.

Mamata, however, slammed the agency for conducting the search at the firm, which had been assigned the task of managing the IT cell of the TMC.

On Friday, both the ED and the West Bengal government approached the Calcutta High Court, which scheduled the matter for consideration on January 14, citing an unconducive atmosphere inside the courtroom. The agency alleged that the CM and the state police obstructed the discharge of public duty in flagrant violation of the law.

Maha Yuti vows to rid Mumbai of potholes & illegal migrants

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Aiming to establish a "triple-engine sarkar', the BJP-led Maha Yuti — comprising the Shiv Sena and the RPI (Athawale) — promised a Mumbai free of potholes, slums, monsoon waterlogging, and even Bangladeshis and Rohingyas besides, a 50% concession on fares for women in BEST buses, interest-free loans for women up to Rs 5 lakh to make them self-dependent and help them establish small-scale industries.

Riding high on the success of the Mukhya Mantri Ladki Bahin Yojana, the alliance's manifesto prioritised, among other things, the requirements of womenfolk and the Marathi population in the state's financial capital.

The Ajit Pawar-led NCP, which is part of the Maha Yuti in Maharashtra, is contesting the elections separately in Mumbai.

The BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) goes to polls on January 15. It is expected to be a multi-cornered contest with BJP-Shiv Sena-RPI (A), the Shiv Sena (UBT)-MNS alliance, and the

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis with his deputy Ekanth Shinde and others during the launch of Mahayuti's manifesto for BMC elections, in Mumbai on Sunday. PTI

Congress-Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi-RPI (Gavai) as the three main fronts, while AAP, Samajwadi Party and the AIMIM contesting on their own strength.

The BJP-led alliance's manifesto was released by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale, who were accompanied by senior leaders of the three parties.

"Mumbai has seen 25 years of inefficiency in civic governance, and now I want to tell people to allow us to bring transparency in civic administration," Fadnavis said in a dig at the Thackeray cousins — Uddhav and Raj.

Ex-MLA, an Uddhav Thackeray loyalist, joins Shinde Sena

MUMBAI, DHNS: Former Shiv Sena MLA Dagdu Sakpal, one of the 'firebrand' and loyal Shiv Sainiks of late Balasaheb Thackeray, joined Eknath Shinde on Sunday, a development that comes as a major blow to Uddhav Thackeray.

Sakpal is a two-time former MLA from Mumbai's Parel area.

A long-time loyalist of the Thackeray family, Sapkal has held key organisational responsibilities within the Sena and has been active in mobilising workers during elections and mass agitations. Known for his assertive style and organisational skills, he is often seen as a trusted functionary entrusted with sensitive political assignments, particularly

Dagdu Sakpal

in Mumbai and its adjoining regions.

"Some people have started treating the loyal Shiv Sainiks, whom Balasaheb considered his companions, as mere servants. Balasaheb understood the feelings of those workers who had served jail time and faced hundreds of cases for strengthening the Shiv Sena, but today these workers are not being given the respect they deserve," said Deputy Chief Minister Shinde, in a sharp attack on Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav.

Sapkal was upset as the Sena (UBT) denied a ticket to his son.

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ

ನಂ.ಮುಇಂ/ಹುಅ/ಬಾ.ಪ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಹರಾಜುಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/2025-26/2214 ದಿನಾಂಕ:09/01/2026

ವಸತಿ ಮೂಲೆ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ನವನಗರದ ವಿವಿಧ ಸೆಕ್ಟರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಸತಿ ಮೂಲೆ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ ವಿತರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಬಿಟಿಡಿಎ (ಮೂಲೆ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹರಾಜು) ನಿಯಮ 2003ರನ್ವಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂ. ಆರ್.ಡಿ/70/ಆರ್.ಇ.ಎಚ್/2003 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.09.2004 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ 163 ನೇಯ ಬೋರ್ಡ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯುನಿಟ್-1 ಮತ್ತು 2 ರಲ್ಲಿಯ ಮೂಲೆ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮಾಡುವ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸರಕಾರದ ಅಪರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಕಾಸ ಸೌಧ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ-ಇ-ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಸಂಇ-104 ಕೆಬಿಎನ್ 2025 ದಿನಾಂಕ 08-05-2025 ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ-ವ್ಯನಿ/ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ/ತಾಂ.ಸ-5/09/2024-25/672 ದಿನಾಂಕ 28-05-2025 ರಂದು ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10:30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿಗಾಗಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾದ ವಸತಿ ಮೂಲೆ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದ ಅಳತೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾದರಿಗಳ ದರಗಳ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ. ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಮೌಲ್ಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಬೇಕು.

ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16/02/2026 ರಿಂದ 13/03/2026 ರ ವರೆಗೆ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22/01/2026 ರಿಂದ 12/02/2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30 ರ ಘಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಟೋಕನ್ ಪಡೆಯಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಲಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಿಗೆ ಯಾರಾದರೂ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವದ್ದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ದಿ: 19/01/2026 ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಂರ್ಪಕಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ದಿನ-01 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 16-02-2026 ರಂದು ಸೋಮವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
1	20	A	162	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
2	30	A	38	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
3	30	A	56	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
4	64	A	57	11.25	9	101.25	1090	1335	1455150
5	34	A	340	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
6	68	B	1	12	11.7	140.4	1511	1335	2017185
7	68	B	9	12	12	144	1550	1335	2017185
8	68	B	10	12	12	144	1550	1335	2017185
9	68	B	18	12	12	144	1550	1335	2017185
10	68	B	19	12	12	144	1550	1335	2017185

ದಿನ-02 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 17-02-2026 ರಂದು ಮಂಗಳವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
11	69	C	9	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875
12	69	C	10	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875
13	67	C	138	18	12	216	2809	1335	3750015
14	69	C	32	14.5	18	261	2809	1335	3750015
15	69	C	41	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875
16	69	D	1	19	24	456	4908	1335	6552180
17	69	D	11	19	24	456	4908	1335	6552180
18	69	E	6	18	27	486	5231	1335	6983385
19	69	E	7	18	27	486	5231	1335	6983385
20	69	C	42	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875

ದಿನ-03 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 18-02-2026 ರಂದು ಬುಧವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
21	64	A	68	11.25	9	101.25	1090	1335	1455150
22	40	A	72	8	8.9	71.2	766	1335	1022610
23	64	A	69	8.5	9	76.5	823	1335	1098705
24	40	A	169	8.2	9.05	74.21	799	1335	1066665
25	65	A	1	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
26	68	B	27	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
27	68	B	28	12	11.8	141.6	1524	1335	2034540
28	68	B	36	12	11.8	141.6	1524	1335	2034540
29	68	B	37	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
30	68	B	49	13	11.8	153.4	1651	1335	2204085

ದಿನ-04 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 19-02-2026 ರಂದು ಗುರುವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
31	69	C	51	14.5	18	261	2809	1335	3750015
32	69	C	64	14.5	18	261	2809	1335	3750015
33	68	C	9	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875
34	68	C	10	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875
35	68	C	27	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875
36	68	C	28	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875
37	69	D	12	19	24	456	4908	1335	6552180
38	69	D	22	19	24	456	4908	1335	6552180
39	69	E	18	18	27	486	5231	1335	6983385
40	69	E	19	18	27	486	5231	1335	6983385

ದಿನ-05 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 20-02-2026 ರಂದು ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
41	65	A	6	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
42	65	A	7	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
43	65	A	12	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
44	65	A	13	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
45	65	A	18	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
46	68	B	50	13	11.8	153.4	1651	1335	2204085
47	67	B	1	11.5	12	138	1485	1335	1982475
48	67	B	10	11.5	12	138	1485	1335	1982475
49	67	B	11	11.5	12	138	1485	1335	1982475
50	67	B	20	11.5	12	138	1485	1335	1982475

ದಿನ-06 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 21-02-2026 ರಂದು ಶನಿವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
51	68	C	37	13.5	18	243	2616	1335	3492360
52	68	C	43	13.5	18	243	2616	1335	3492360
53	68	C	44	13.5	18	243	2616	1335	3492360
54	68	C	50	13.5	18	243	2616	1335	3492360
55	68	C	51	13.5	18	243	2616	1335	3492360
56	68	C	57	13.5	18	243	2616	1335	3492360
57	67	D	1	24	19	439.75	4733	1335	6318555
58	67	D	8	24	19	439.75	4733	1335	6318555
59	67	E	1	20.5	27	553.5	5958	1335	7953930
60	67	E	5	20.5	27	553.5	5958	1335	7953930

ದಿನ-07 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 23-02-2026 ರಂದು ಸೋಮವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
61	65	A	19	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
62	65	A	24	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
63	65	A	25	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
64	65	A	30	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
65	65	A	31	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
66	67	B	21	12	14.2	170.4	1834	1335	2448390
67	67	B	33	12	15	180	1938	1335	2587230
68	67	B	34	12	15	180	1938	1335	2587230
69	67	B	46	12	15	180	1938	1335	2587230
70	66	B	1	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250

ದಿನ-08 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 24-02-2026 ರಂದು ಮಂಗಳವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
71	68	C	58	13.5	18	243	2616	1335	3492360
72	68	C	64	13.5	18	243	2616	1335	3492360
73	68	C	73	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875
74	68	C	74	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875
75	68	C	91	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875
76	68	C	92	12	18	216	2325	1335	3103875
77	67	D	9	24	19.5	450.12	4845	1335	6468075
78	65	D	1	19	24	456	4908	1335	6552180
79	67	E	6	27	19.5	526.5	5667	1335	7565445
80	67	E	12	27	19.5	526.5	5667	1335	7565445

ದಿನ-09 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 25-02-2026 ರಂದು ಬುಧವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
81	65	A	36	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
82	65	A	37	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
83	65	A	42	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
84	65	A	43	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
85	65	A	48	8.75	9	78.75	848	1335	1132080
86	66	B	9	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
87	66	B	10	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
88	66	B	18	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
89	66	B	19	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
90	66	B	27	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250

ದಿನ-10 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 26-02-2026 ರಂದು ಗುರುವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
91	67	C	1	18	16.5	297	3197	1335	4267995
92	67	C	10	18	16.5	297	3197	1335	4267995
93	67	C	11	11.5	18	207	2228	1335	2974380
94	67	C	18	11.5	18	207	2228	1335	2974380
95	67	C	19	11.5	18	207	2228	1335	2974380
96	67	C	26	11.5	18	207	2228	1335	2974380
97	65	D	11	19	24	456	4908	1335	6552180
98	65	D	12	19	24	456	4908	1335	6552180
99	67	E	13	27	19.5	526.5	5667	1335	7565445
100	67	E	19	20.5	27	553.5	5958	1335	7953930

ದಿನ-11 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 27-02-2026 ರಂದು ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
101	64	A	85	8	9	76.5	823	1335	1098705
102	48	A	48	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
103	49	A	206	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
104	49	A	214	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
105	49	A	248	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
106	66	B	28	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
107	66	B	36	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
108	66	B	37	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
109	66	B	49	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
110	66	B	50	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465

ದಿನ-12 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 06-03-2026 ರಂದು ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
111	67	C	27	18	12	216	2325	1335	3103875
112	67	C	32	18	24	432	4650	1335	6207750
113	67	C	33	18	24	432	4650	1335	6207750
114	67	C	38	18	12	216	2325	1335	3103875
115	67	C	39	14.5	18	261	2809	1335	3750015
116	67	C	53	14.5	18	261	2809	1335	3750015
117	65	D	22	19	24	456	4908	1335	6552180
118	67	E	23	20.5	27	553.5	5958	1335	7953930
119	67	C	139	18	16.5	297	3197	1335	4267995
120	65	E	6	17	27	459	4941	1335	6596235

ದಿನ-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 07-03-2026 ರಂದು ಶನಿವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
121	49	A	285	8	8.7	69.6	749	1335	999915
122	49	A	308	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
123	49	A	327	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
124	49	A	328	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
125	49	A	344	8	9	72	775	1335	1034625
126	66	B	62	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
127	66	B	63	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
128	66	B	69	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
129	66	B	70	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
130	66	B	76	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465

ದಿನ-14 ದಿನಾಂಕ - 09-03-2026 ರಂದು ಸೋಮವಾರ

SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
131	67	C	54	14.5	18	261	2809	1335	3750015
132	67	C	68	14.5	18	261	2809	1335	3750015
133	67	C	69	14.5	18	261	2809	1335	3750015
134	67	C	83	14.5	18	261	2809	1335	3750015
135	67	C	84	14.5	18	261	2809	1335	3750015
136	67	C	98	14.5	18	261	2809	1335	3750015
137	67	C	99	18	12	216	2325	1335	3103875
138	65	E	7	18	27	486	5231	1335	6983385
139	65	E	18	18	27	486	5231	1335	6983385
140	65	E	19	18	27	486	5231	1335	6983385

ದಿನ–15 ದಿನಾಂಕ – 10–03–2026 ರಂದು ಮಂಗಳವಾರ									
SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
141	64	A	1	11.25	9	101.25	1090	1335	1455150
142	64	A	12	11.25	9	101.25	1090	1335	1455150
143	64	A	13	11.25	9	101.25	1090	1335	1455150
144	64	A	24	11.25	9	101.25	1090	1335	1455150
145	64	A	25	9.5	9	85.5	920	1335	1228200
146	66	B	77	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
147	66	B	83	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
148	66	B	84	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
149	66	B	90	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
150	66	B	91	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
ದಿನ–16 ದಿನಾಂಕ – 11–03–2026 ರಂದು ಬುಧವಾರ									
SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
151	67	C	104	18	24	432	4650	1335	6207750
152	67	C	105	18	24	432	4650	1335	6207750
153	67	C	110	18	12	216	2325	1335	3103875
154	67	C	111	11.5	18	207	2228	1335	2974380
155	67	C	118	11.5	18	207	2228	1335	2974380
156	67	C	119	11.3	17.5	197.75	2129	1335	2842215
157	67	C	126	11.5	17.5	201.25	2166	1335	2891610
158	67	C	127	18	12	216	2325	1335	3103875
159	67	C	132	18	24	432	4650	1335	6207750
160	67	C	133	18	24	432	4650	1335	6207750
ದಿನ–17 ದಿನಾಂಕ – 12–03–2026 ರಂದು ಗುರುವಾರ									
SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
161	64	A	34	9.5	9	85.5	920	1335	1228200
162	64	A	35	9.5	9	85.5	920	1335	1228200
163	64	A	44	9.5	9	85.5	920	1335	1228200
164	64	A	45	11.25	9	101.25	1090	1335	1455150
165	64	A	56	11.25	9	101.25	1090	1335	1455150
166	66	B	103	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
167	66	B	104	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
168	66	B	116	13	12	156	1679	1335	2241465
169	66	B	117	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
170	66	B	125	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
ದಿನ–18 ದಿನಾಂಕ – 13–03–2026 ರಂದು ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ									
SLNO	Sector	Type	PlotNo	Length	Breadth	Area SQM	Area SQFT	RATE	AMOUNT
171	64	A	57	11.25	9	101.25	1090	1335	1455150
172	64	A	68	11.25	9	101.25	1090	1335	1455150
173	64	A	69	8.5	9	76.5	823	1335	1098705
174	64	A	85	8.5	9	76.5	823	1335	1098705
175	64	A	86	8.25	9	74.25	799	1335	1066665
176	66	B	126	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
177	66	B	134	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
178	66	B	135	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
179	66	B	143	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250
180	66	B	144	12	12	144	1550	1335	2069250

ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನ ನಿಬಂಧನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು: 1.ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವವರು ಭಾರತೀಯ ಪ್ರಜೆಯಾಗಿರಬೇಕು. 2.ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿದಾಗ ಇ–ಆಸ್ತಿ ಉತಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಲಿಕರ ಅಂಕಣದಲ್ಲಿ "ಮುಖ್ಯ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು ಬಾ.ಪ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ" ಎಂದು ದಾಖಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುಭೋಗದಾರರು ಅಂಕಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡ್ ದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು ನಮೂದಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. 3.ಹತ್ತು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ನಂತರ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ/ಷರತ್ತುಬದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ/ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಪಡೆದು ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿ ನಿಗದಿತ ಶುಲ್ಕದೊಂದಿಗೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದಾಗ ಮಾಲಿಕರ ಅಂಕಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು ನಮೂದಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. 4.ಬಿಡ್ ಆದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಇ–ಆಸ್ತಿ ಉತಾರ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವಾಗ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪತ್ರ ಪಡೆದ ಸಂತ್ರಸ್ಥರು ಇ–ಖಾತೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳು ಫಿಫೋ (First In First Out) ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿಯಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಇ–ಉತಾರ ನೀಡುವುದು ವಿಳಂಬವಾಗಲಿದ್ದು, ಕಾರಣ ಇ–ಖಾತಾ ಸೃಜನೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರಿಗೆ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪತ್ರ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಇ–ಉತಾರ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು. 5.ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪತ್ರ ವಿತರಣೆಯಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಹತ್ತು ವರ್ಷ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡ ನಂತರ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಎನ್.ಒ.ಸಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡ ನಂತರ ತಮ್ಮ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಬೇರೆಯವರಿಗೆ ವರ್ಗಾಯಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. 6.ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಹರಾಜಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿಯೇ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕು. ಸದರಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಹರಾಜು ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. 7.ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವರು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ತೋರಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮುಂಗಡ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಸಿ.ಎ.ಓ ಬಿಟಿಡಿಎ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಿಂದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕೃತ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ಡ ಕಮರ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನಿಂದ ಡಿ.ಡಿ ಪಡೆದು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಮಾದರಿ		ಮುಂಗಡ ಮೊತ್ತ
1	A, B	ವಸತಿ	50,000/–
2	C, D, E	ವಸತಿ	1,00,000/–

ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಂತೆ 1.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಡಿ.ಡಿ ಪಡೆದವರು 50,000/– ಡಿ.ಡಿ ಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
8.ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ, ಡಿ.ಡಿ ಯ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿಳಾಸ, ಎರಡು ಭಾವ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳು, ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಕಾರ್ಡ, ಆಧಾರ ಕಾರ್ಡ, ಪ್ಯಾನ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ, ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿಯನ್ನು ಗೆಜೆಟೆಡ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪ್ಯಾನ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಲಗತ್ತಿಸಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. 9.ರೂ. 100000/– ಗಳ ಡಿ.ಡಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದವರು ವಸತಿ " ಸಿ, ಡಿ, ಇ " ಮಾದರಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಅರ್ಹರಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿಯವರು ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ "ಎ,ಬಿ" ಮಾದರಿ ವಸತಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಬಯಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ರೂ.50000/– ಗಳ ಡಿ.ಡಿ ಪಡೆದು ಪಾವತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಒಬ್ಬ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಒಂದೇ ಯಾವುದಾದರೊಂದು ಮಾದರಿಯ ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅರ್ಹರಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. 10.ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬರು ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಪತ್ರ ಪಡೆದು ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹರಾಜಿನ ದಿನದಂದು ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಸ್ವತಃ ಹಾಜರಿರಬೇಕು. 11.ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಬಿಡ್ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಪ್ರತಿಶತ 25% ರಷ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಹರಾಜಿನ ದಿನವೇ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾವತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂಗಡ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಟ್ಟುಗೋಲು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಿಡ್ ಕೇಳಿದ ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಉಳಿದ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಫಾರ್ಮ ನಂ.1ರ ಅಧೀಕೃತ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಪತ್ರದ ಅನುಸಾರ 45 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಡಿ. ಡಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ತುಂಬತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ನಿಗಧಿತ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತುಂಬಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಗೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಹಣ ತುಂಬುವ ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು 90 ದಿನಗಳ ವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ ಬಾಕಿ ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತಿಶತ 18% ರಷ್ಟು ಬಡ್ಡಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ 500/– ರೂ. ಗಳ ದಂಡದ ಹಣದೊಂದಿಗೆ ತುಂಬತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. 12.ಅತೀ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಹರಾಜು ಬೇಡಿ ನಿಗಧಿತ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಹಣ ತುಂಬದೇ ಇರುವ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರ, ಬಾಗಶಃ ತುಂಬಿದ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹರಾಜು ಷರತ್ತು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 7(6) ಮತ್ತು 7(7)ರನ್ವಯ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಟ್ಟುಗೋಲು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವದಷ್ಟೆ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಅವರ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಸದರ ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ಮರು ಹರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. 13.ಪ್ರಕಟಿತ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮೂಲೆ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಾಜಿನಿಂದ ಕೈಬಿಡುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಹರಾಜನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪುವ ಅಥವಾ ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸುವ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರವು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. 14.ನಿವೇಶನ ಅಳತೆ ವಿವರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸಗಳೇನಾದರೂ ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಸ್ಥಾನಿಕ ನಿಖರ ಅಳತೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 15.ಹರಾಜು ಮಾಡಿದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದ ನಂತರ ಅವುಗಳನ್ನು ಭಾಗ/ ವಿಭಾಗ/ (split) ಮಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.16.ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ (ಮೂಲೆ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹರಾಜು) ನಿಯಮ 2003ರ/ ಇಂಪ್ರೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಜರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. 17.ಆಯಾ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಮೌಲ್ಯಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಪ್ರತಿ ಸಲ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ರೂ. 5000ಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಾಡುವುದು. 18.ಬಿಡ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ನಿವೇಶನದ ರೂ. 50 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ 50 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ಆದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ 1%ರಷ್ಟು ಆದಾಯ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಒಟ್ಟು ನಿವೇಶನದ ಮೌಲ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರಿದ್ದು, ತೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಆದಾಯ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಭರಿಸಿ ಫಾರ್ಮ ನಂ.16(ಬಿ) ನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಬಿಡ್ ಮೌಲ್ಯದ ಬಾಕಿ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಭರಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪತ್ರ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 19.ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದ ನಂತರ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ವ್ಯಾಜ್ಯದಿಂದಾಗಿ ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಅಂತಹ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಭರಿಸಿದ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಮರಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ತದನಂತರ ಸದರಿ ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬಡ್ಡಿಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. 20.ಮೂಲೆ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಹರಾಜಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಹರಾಜು ದಿನಾಂಕ/ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ/ಹಿಂದೂಡುವ/ಪರಿಷ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ವಿವರಣೆ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ನೀಡುವ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. 21.ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾದ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಹಕ್ಕು ಪತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ತದನಂತರ ಹೆಸರು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. 22.ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರ ಹೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಫರ್ಮ/ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ / ಸಂಘ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹೆಸರಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. 23.ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ಒಬ್ಬರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಜಂಟಿಯಾಗಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. 24.ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರ ಹೆಸರನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಎಲ್ಲ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿ.ಡಿ ಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಡಿ.ಡಿ ಯನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು ಇತರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಹಣ ಸಂದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. 25.ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಹರಾಜಿನ ದಿನದಂದು ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷನೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದಿನ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ನಂತರ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನದಂದು ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 26.ಅರ್ಜಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಸರು ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹಕ್ಕುಪತ್ರ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಆಸ್ತಿ ಉತಾರದ ಅನುಭೋಗದಾರರ ಅಂಕಣದಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು, ನಂತರ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಹೆಸರು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. 27.ಸರಕಾರದಿಂದ / ಚುಣಾವಣೆ ಆಯೋಗದಿಂದ / ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಿಂದ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಆದೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–(ಚಂದ್ರಹಾಸ ಬಂಡಿ)
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಇಂಜನೀಯರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು
ಬಾ.ಪ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-/504/KSMCA/2025-26

Make a deal, before it is too late, Trump tells Cuba

Says no more Venezuelan oil or funds for island nation

REUTERS

US President Donald Trump on Sunday said no more Venezuelan oil or money will go to Cuba and suggested the Communist-run island should strike a deal with Washington, ramping up pressure on the longtime U.S. nemesis.

Venezuela is Cuba's biggest oil supplier, but no cargoes have departed from Venezuelan ports to the Caribbean country since the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro by U.S. forces in early January amid a strict U.S. oil blockade on the OPEC country, shipping data shows.

Meanwhile, Caracas and Washington are progressing on a $2 billion deal to supply up to 50 million barrels of Venezuelan oil to the U.S. with proceeds to be deposited in US Treasury-supervised accounts, a major test of the emerging relationship between Trump and interim President Delcy Rodriguez.

"THERE WILL BE NO MORE OIL OR MONEY GOING TO CUBA - ZERO! I strongly suggest they make a deal, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform on Sunday. "Cuba lived, for many years, on large amounts of OIL and MONEY from Venezuela," Trump added.

Trump did not elaborate on his suggested deal.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said in a post on X on Sunday that Cuba had the right to import fuel from any suppliers willing to export it. He also denied that Cuba had received financial or other "material" compensation in return for security services provided to any country.

Cuba's President and First Secretary Miguel Diaz-Canel (L) and US President Donald Trump. AFP

US threatening global peace, says Rodriguez

Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said the country has not received compensation for security services provided to any other country, according to a post on X on Sunday, reports Reuters.

He added that the Cuba has the right to import fuel from any country willing to export it. Cuba historically has imported most of its fuel from Venezuela and Mexico.

Rodriguez accused the US of behaving in a "criminal" manner that threatens global peace with its actions.

"Cuba's government will not be subject of US blackmail or military coercion," Rodriguez also said.

1st India-funded Bailey Bridge opens for traffic in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, PTI: The first Bailey Bridge built with India's assistance package to Sri Lanka has been opened for traffic in the cyclone-hit island nation, the Indian mission here said on Sunday.

The 100-ft Bailey bridge was constructed by the Indian Army, restoring a vital road link between the Central Province and Uva Province, the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka said.

It added that over 15 other Bailey Bridges will be constructed over the coming weeks.

"Restoring connectivity - the first Bailey Bridge under Indian Assistance Package for Post-Ditwah Reconstruction opened for traffic," it said in a post on X.

The bridge was inaugurated on Saturday by the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha, along with Deputy Minister of Transport Prasanna Gunasena and Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education Madhura Senevirathne.

US launches new retaliatory strikes against IS in Syria

WASHINGTON, AP

The US has launched another round of retaliatory strikes against the Islamic State in Syria following last month's ambush that killed two US soldiers and one American civilian interpreter in the country.

The large-scale strikes, conducted by the US alongside partner forces, occurred around 12:30 pm ET, according to US Central Command. The strikes hit multiple Islamic State targets across Syria.

The Jordanian military later announced it had taken part in the strikes.

Saturday's strikes are part of a broader operation that is part of President Donald Trump's response to the deadly IS attack that killed Sgt. Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, Sgt. William Nathaniel Howard, and Ayad Mansoor Sakat, the civilian interpreter, in Palmyra last month.

"Our message remains strong: if you harm our warfighters, we will find you and kill you anywhere in the world, no matter how hard you try to evade justice," US Central Command said in a statement Saturday.

A day earlier, Syrian officials said their security forces had arrested the military leader of IS's operations in the Levant.

The US military said Saturday's strikes were carried out alongside partner forces without specifying which forces had taken part.

The Trump administration is calling the response to the Palmyra attacks Operation Hawkeye Strike. Both Torres-Tovar and Howard were members of the Iowa National Guard.

It launched December 19 with another large-scale strike that hit 70 targets across central Syria that had IS infrastructure and weapons.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces has for years been the US' main partner in the fight against IS in Syria, but since the ouster of former Syrian President Bashar Assad in December 2024, Washington has increasingly been coordinating with the central government in Damascus.

Syria recently joined the global coalition against IS.

Demonstrators in London, Paris, Istanbul back Iran protests

We want revolution, change the regime, says a protester

LONDON, AFP

Demonstrators rallied in London, Paris and Istanbul on Sunday in support of protests in Iran that have been countered with a deadly crackdown by the country's security forces.

London demonstrations, initially in front of the Iranian embassy and later in front of the British prime minister's residence, grew to several thousand as the day progressed.

"We want revolution, change the regime," Afsi, a 38-year-old Iranian, who declined to give her last name, told AFP at the rally in front of Downing Street.

Afsi has lived in London for seven years, and has not been able to contact her family in Iran because of an internet blackout imposed by authorities since Thursday.

" It's so frustrating, but it's not the first time," he said. "This time, we have hope ... we feel like we can do it (overthrow the government) this time."

In Paris, more than 2,000 people waving Iran's flag from before the Islamic Revolution in 1979 demonstrated, to chants of "No to the terrorist Islamic Republic".

Police did not allow them to approach the Iranian embassy.

"Close the mullahs' embassy, the terrorist factory," some demonstrators yelled.

A 20-year-old Iranian student living in Paris, who gave his first name as Arya, said: "In Iran, the people are rising up in the streets, and we Iranians outside Iran are here to show we are with them and they are not alone."

He said he was waiting to hear what the son of Iran's last shah, US-based Reza Pahlavi, "will tell us to do".

Pahlavi has emerged as a potential figurehead for government opponents.

The protests, initially sparked by anger over the rising cost of living, have lasted two weeks and become a movement against the theocratic system in place since the 1979 revolution. Iranian authorities have called the protesters "rioters" who are backed by the United States and Israel.

People take part in a demonstration to support mass rallies denouncing the Islamic republic in Iran in Paris on Sunday. AFP

Myanmar votes in second phase of junta-run election

KAWHMU, AFP: Myanmar's junta held the second phase of elections on Sunday that democracy watchdogs warn will let the military prolong its rule, opening polling in the constituency of deposed democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The armed forces have ruled Myanmar for most of its post-independence history, snatching back power in a 2021 coup after a decade-long democratic thaw, nullifying the previous poll, detaining Suu Kyi and plunging the country into civil war.

With Suu Kyi sidelined and her massively popular party dissolved, democracy advocates say the vote has been rigged by a crackdown on dissent and a ballot stacked with military allies.

Polls opened on Sunday morning in dozens of constituencies, including Suu Kyi's former seat of Kawhmu south of commercial hub Yangon.

Farmer Than Than Sint acknowledged Myanmar's "many problems" but told AFP she voted in pursuit of peace. "We know it will not come right away. But we need to go step-by-step for our future generations," the 54-year-old said after voting.

The junta has pledged the three-phase election will return power to the people after it ends on January 25.

Nepalese royalists demand monarchy restoration ahead of March elections

KATHMANDU, AP

Supporters of Nepal's deposed royal family rallied in the capital on Sunday, demanding the restoration of the monarchy ahead of March elections.

It was the first rally by supporters of ousted King Gyanendra since a wave of violent demonstrations by disgruntled youth in September installed an interim government that set fresh parliamentary elections in March.

"We love our king. Bring back the king," the rally participants chanted around the statue of King Prithvi Narayan Shah, who started the Shah dynasty in the 18th century. The last Shah king—Gyanendra—was forced to step down, and the monarchy was abolished in 2008, making Nepal a republic.

'Only alternative'

"The last and only alternative for this country is a king and monarchy only, said protester Samrat Thapa. "In the present context and the path the country has taken after the Gen Z movement, there needs to be a monarchy restored to manage the situation."

Sunday marks the birth anniversary of Prithvi Narayan, and the annual rally in the past has turned violent with clashes between demonstrators and police. Two people were killed during a pro-king rally last March. Sunday's gathering was peaceful as riot police kept a close watch on the event.

Nepal's royal family still enjoys significant support.

The interim government, headed by Nepal's first female prime minister, Sushila Karki, a retired Supreme Court judge, took over following protests by Gen Z activists complaining of corruption, lack of opportunities, employment and poor governance.

They were triggered by the previous government's short-lived ban on social media.

Karki has been criticised for dragging her feet in filing corruption cases.

Malaysia suspends access to Musk's Grok AI: Regulator

KUALA LUMPUR, AFP: Malaysia suspended access to Elon Musk's chatbot Grok over AI-generated pornographic content, the country's tech regulator said on Sunday.

The decision follows global backlash after it emerged that Grok's image creation feature allowed users to sexualise pictures of women and children using simple text prompts.

On Saturday Indonesia became the first country to deny all access to the tool, which has been restricted to paying subscribers elsewhere.

Travel chaos as deep freeze halts flights in Finland

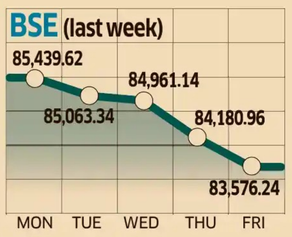
HELSINKI, AP

Thousands of tourists were stranded in northern Finland on Sunday after flights at Kittilä airport were cancelled due

DH BUSINESS

DECCAN HERALD
Monday
January 12, 2026

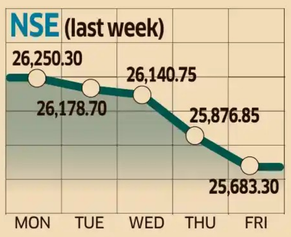
BSE (last week)



*Data as of Jan 9

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
BEL	3.91%	TRENT	-9.82%
TITAN	3.76%	RELIANCE	-7.36%
ICICIBANK	3.60%	HDFCBANK	-6.24%
ASIANPAINT	1.88%	INDIGO	-5.13%
HCLTECH	1.37%	POWERGRID	-4.61%

NSE (last week)



TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
BEL	3.84%	TRENT	-9.90%
TITAN	3.70%	RELIANCE	-7.35%
ICICIBANK	3.61%	HDFC BANK	-6.25%
EICHER MOTORS	2.35%	ADANI ENTER	-5.53%
ASIAN PAINTS	1.91%	JIO FINANCIAL	-4.79%

Sensex (52-week)

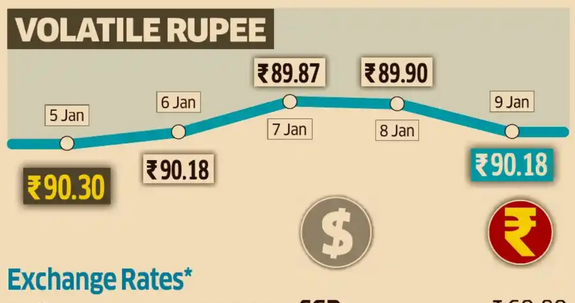
Jan 9, 2025	Jan 9, 2026	
77,620.21	83,576.24	7.67%

Nifty (52-week)

Jan 9, 2025	Jan 9, 2026	
23,526.50	25,683.30	9.17%

10-year Bond yield 6.63%

VOLATILE RUPEE



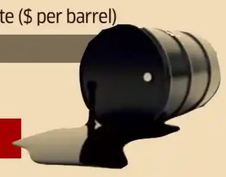
Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹ 90.18	SGD	₹ 69.89
Pound	₹ 121.02	Yen (100 units)	₹ 57.26
Euro	₹ 105.00		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)

BRENT CRUDE
$63.34*
2.18%
*Rate as of Jan 9



Bengaluru fuel pump price*

(Retail)
Petrol* ₹102.98 ₹0.06% ▲
Diesel* ₹91.04 ₹0.05% ▲
*Rates as of Jan 10 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹ 26200 - 26800
Arabica Cherry	₹ 13500 - 15100
Robusta Parchment	₹ 16200 - 16700
Robusta Cherry	₹ 9700 - 10500

*Rates as on Jan 8

Other Commodities

Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹ 777
Cross Breed (CB)	₹ 689

*Average rates as on Jan 9

Govt may achieve fiscal deficit target of 4.4% in FY26, says PwC

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government is likely to achieve the fiscal deficit target of 4.4 per cent of the GDP in FY26, and it could even better it, a positive signal to global investors about India's commitment to fiscal management, PwC Partner and Economic Advisory Services leader Ranen Banerjee said.

The revision in the nominal GDP growth target from 10.1% to 8% by the National Statistical Office recently raised concerns about the government's ability to meet the fiscal deficit target.

Although the nominal GDP growth rate has been revised downward to 8% from 10.1%, the absolute numbers are almost matching the budget estimates, he said, adding that this means the denominator is not shrinking and the government should easily meet the 4.4% fiscal deficit target.

It is to be noted that the government overachieved its fiscal deficit target of 4.8% against 4.9% of GDP pegged for FY25.

"It has a headroom to actually better it. We believe that optically speaking, it could be pegged at 4.3% because it is a kind of signal that we are actually not only meeting the fiscal consolidation targets, but we are overachieving them," Banerjee said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech last year, pegged the fiscal deficit for FY26 at Rs 15.69 lakh crore, or 4.4% of GDP.

Observing that the National Statistical Office's revision of nominal GDP growth is in line with expectations, Banerjee said softer wholesale price indices, particularly food and oil prices, have contributed to a lower deflator, resulting in a smaller gap between nominal and real GDP growth.

However, he said, the lower nominal GDP growth is expected to impact tax revenues, with an estimated shortfall of Rs 1.9 lakh crore in gross tax revenues.

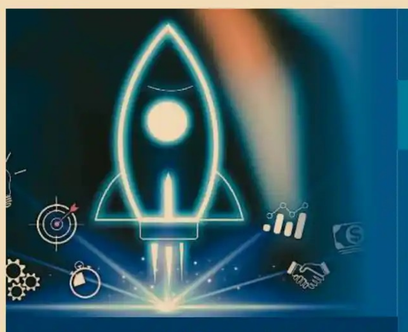
After accounting for GST compensation cess, he said, the shortfall could be around Rs 75,000 crore.

Despite this, the central government is expected to have a buffer of around Rs 50,000 crore from unutilised GST compensation cess funds.

On the expenditure side, he said revenue expenditure is likely to be 2% lower than budget estimates, while capital expenditure is expected to be close to 100% of the budgeted amount.

As a result, the fiscal deficit target is still achievable, with the shortfall in tax revenues likely to be offset by savings on the expenditure side, he added.

Startups seek ESOP clarity, enhanced funding for deep tech, AI



Last year, Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) increased its maximum guarantee cover from **Rs 10 cr to Rs 20 cr** per borrower

STARTING LINE

Under Section 17(2) of the Income Tax Act, ESOPs are taxed as perquisites at the time of exercise

1,97,692 entities have been recognised as startups under the Startup India initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

Startups demand that the government should extend ESOP tax deferral to all DPIIT-recognised startups, allowing taxation only at the point of liquidity

In the last Budget, a new Fund of Funds with expanded scope and a fresh contribution of another Rs 10,000 crore was announced

Deloitte favours creation of a Public Digital Infrastructure Fund for innovation and exports. It says the fund should support R&D, cybersecurity and capacity-building for DPI modules anchored by startups and academia

India at critical juncture to become global innovation hub

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ahead of the Union Budget 2026, the country's startup ecosystem is expecting policymakers to address various challenges, including clarity on ESOP (Employee Stock Option Plan) taxation and enhanced funding in deep tech, Artificial Intelligence (AI), data and cybersecurity startups.

Currently, there are no proper guidelines when it comes to ESOPs. Deloitte in its Budget expectations said that under Section 17(2) of the Income Tax Act, ESOPs are taxed as perquisites at the time of exercise. "While this framework works for domestic employees, it does not address specific concerns for cross-border employees, particularly those who have rendered services both in India and abroad during the grant-to-vesting period," it said, adding that it leads to hardship for mobile employees, including expatriates and returning Indians.

It recommended that CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) should issue clear guidelines for apportioning ESOP taxation in cross-border scenarios, including a standard formula or method based on the location of services rendered during the grant-to-vesting period to determine the perquisite, as well as the cost of acquisition.

Founder HCL and Chairman EPIC Foundation Ajai Chowdhry said India stands at a critical juncture in its journey to become a global innovation hub, and the ESOPs framework of a country plays a critical role in supporting the growth of the startup ecosystem. He opined that in sharp contrast to other mature startup ecosystems, India's dual taxation model on ESOPs—taxing employees at exercise and again at sale—creates significant friction that is actively pushing Indian startups and founders toward offshore relocation. "I am hoping to see a simplified ESOP taxation for startups during this budget that will be critical for the country's growing startup ecosystem," he added.

"Government procurement is the strongest catalyst for startup growth. India's Rs 37 lakh crore annual government spend reaches less than 1% of innovative startups. By engaging with 400-plus startups and with 74 active projects with the Indian Army alone, IDEX has demonstrated that structured government procurement-plus-funding can scale startups 10x faster. Other ministries operate fragmented schemes without direct startup engagement. A Cross-Ministry Startup Procurement Framework is urgently needed to unlock promising ventures serving critical national demands," Chowdhry added.

In last year's Budget, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) will be supported by the Rs 10,000-crore commitment. Sitharaman also announced that a deep tech Fund of Funds will be explored to catalyse the next-generation startups.

Startups expect the government to enhance funding in deep tech in the upcoming Budget. Wissen Technology CEO & Founder Raghu Pareddy said an understanding to enhance funding for deep tech, AI, data, and cybersecurity startups, rationalised tax and ESOP reforms, and simplified compliance will be the key to enabling sustainable growth.

Airbound Founder & CEO Naman Pushp said Budget 2026 should prioritise two things very clearly. First, sustained R&D funding for hard problem statements. "Deep-tech R&D is expensive, uncertain, and long-cycle, which is why many companies end up copying foreign designs or outsourcing critical innovation. Second, capex support for advanced manufacturing, including the cost of machinery, training, and build-out, because hardware innovation cannot scale without serious upfront investment. If India wants to truly own categories like flight-based logistics, we need to invest in both end-to-end, in R&D and final-stage manufacturing," he said.

Grant Thornton Bharat Partner Raja Lahiri said India's innovation economy is entering an execution phase, and Budget 2026 will be judged on how quickly it converts intent into infrastructure. "Founders are buzzing about practical enablers: streamlined tax regimes with simplified TDS slabs to ease compliance drag. There's strong expectations for accelerating AI adoption through sovereign compute infrastructure and talent incentives, unlocking India's projected $1.7 trillion AI-driven economic boost by 2035. Market signals echo this tech and ease-of-doing-business reforms are seen as top growth levers, with calls for customs duty waivers on GPUs (Graphics Processing Unit), accelerated depreciation for data-centre assets, and renewable-energy-linked incentives," he said, adding that if these measures align with IndiaAI and fast-track RDI deployment, the country can shift from promise to global product leadership.

Taxpayers await clarity on continuation of old income tax regime

PRABHAKAR K S

On February 1, the Finance Minister is all set to present India's eighteenth and her consecutive ninth Union Budget. As the Central government unveils its major policy announcement on that day, it will try to reaffirm its ambition to elevate India to the third-largest economy by 2031 and a developed economy by 2047. A much-needed bold statement is required in the unprecedented, volatile global order that exists today. As far as individual common taxpayers, including salaried employees, self-employed professionals, and freelancers, are concerned, all have their own set of expectations, though very little scope for change.

Old tax regime

Due to the more attractive default new tax regime, about 80% of taxpayers have already opted out of the less lucrative old tax regime. To nudge remaining taxpayers, there may not be any groundbreaking changes in the tax slab and tax rate fronts. However, to address 20% taxpayers' serious concerns, there may be upward adjustments expected in tax-free allowances and deductions-related provisions.

Section 80C tax relief on life insurance premiums, etc, is one of the most favourite deductions among others, and was last increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh in 2014. Section 80D tax relief on health insurance premiums aggregate sums were last revised to Rs 25,000 in 2015 and Rs 50,000 in 2018. Section 80DDB tax relief on medical treatment's maximum deduction of Rs 40,000 for individuals up to 60 years may be revised at par with the senior citizens cap of Rs 1 lakh or actual amount spent, whichever is lower. Section 80EEB tax relief on the interest portion of the loan availed between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2023, for purchasing electric vehicles, lapsed three years ago. Section 80GG tax relief on rent paid was last revised in 2016. Thus, the finance ministry can adequately revise and extend these tax reliefs through suitable amendments. They will absorb the inflation effect and encourage the adoption of electric vehicles by a wider section.

New default tax regime

The last two Union Budgets have made the new default tax regime more attractive. There were substantial changes carried to the tax slabs, basic exemption limit, enhanced rebate, higher standard deduction and reduction in surcharge. Given the revenue implications and expected failure in meeting tax collection targets, there may be a few tweaks to the new default tax regime, or the status quo may be continued.

Waiver of old tax demands-Post September 2025, hundreds of taxpayers were surprised that their tax refunds were withheld to adjust against 10-20-year-old tax demands. How to trace and provide documentary evidence for the taxes paid in 2005-2015, which is not their fault in the first place. Since India is moving to a new income tax regime soon, the finance ministry is expected to waive off old tax demands of up to Rs 25,000 per assessment year, till March 2026. It will avoid futile exercise of recovering small tax demands, save the department's precious time, energy and protracted tax litigations.

Simplified compliance: In November 2022, there was a proposal to introduce 'Common ITR' by merging all existing ITRs, except ITR Form-7, applicable to charitable trusts. However, thereafter, no developments have been reported as such. The finance ministry may introduce it on a trial basis from the tax year 2026-27 to file returns under the new Income Tax Act, 2025. It will ensure faster refunds, reduce time consumption, compliance burden, and catch up with the best international standards.

Before parting, one of the compelling reasons for those 20% taxpayers still with the optional tax regime is availing tax benefits on housing loans, house rent, and leave travel allowances exclusively thereunder. Thus, it is widely expected that the finance ministry may clear the doubts of its continuity, and if it intends to continue, then how long? Its crystal clear clarification on continuation or ending with a sunset clause will help taxpayers to plan their tax outgo for the near future more efficiently.

(The writer is Founder & CEO, Shree Tax Chambers)

CII for lowering stake in 78 PSEs to raise Rs 10 lakh crore

In 1st phase, govt can target 55 PSEs where it holds less than 75% stake

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre can mobilise Rs 10 lakh crore of productive capital by lowering its stake to 51% in 78 listed public sector enterprises (PSEs), the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has said, urging Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to give a push to privatisation in the upcoming Budget.

In its pre-Budget proposals, the industry body has urged the government to mobilise resources through a calibrated approach to privatisation, focusing on sectors where private participation can enhance efficiency, technology infusion, and global competitiveness.

A CII analysis shows that reducing the government's stake to 51% in 78 listed PSEs could unlock close to Rs 10 lakh crore, the industry body said in a statement.

It suggested that in the first two years of the roadmap, disinvestment strategy could target 55 PSEs where the government holds 75% or less, mobilising around Rs 4.6 lakh crore.

In the subsequent stage, 23 PSEs with higher government stakes (over 75%) could be disinvested, potentially bringing in Rs 5.4 lakh crore, it said.

"Unlocking nearly Rs 10 lakh crore of productive capital would provide vital resources to accelerate physical and social infrastructure development and support fiscal consolidation," said CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee.

Highlighting the strategic significance of privatisation in the current global economic landscape, Banerjee said, "India's growth story is increasingly being powered by private enterprise and innovation. A forward-looking privatisation policy, aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat, will enable the government to focus on its core functions while empowering the private sector to accelerate industrial transformation and job creation."

CII has called for accelerating the implementation of the government's strategic disinvestment policy, which envisions an exit from all PSEs in non-strategic sectors and a minimal presence in strategic ones.

To provide investors greater clarity and planning time, the industry lobby has urged the government to announce a rolling three-year privatisation pipeline, outlining which enterprises are likely to be taken up for privatisation during this period.

"This visibility would encourage deeper investor engagement and more realistic valuation and price discovery, which would contribute towards expediting the privatisation process," it said.

CII has called for a shift to a demand-based approach in selecting PSEs for privatisation.

Under the current framework, the government identifies specific enterprises for sale and subsequently invites investor interest. However, when sufficient demand or valuation is not achieved, the process often stalls. CII has called for change in this practice, suggesting that the government first gauge investor interest across a broader set of enterprises and then prioritise those that attract stronger interest and meet valuation expectations.

Such an approach, CII believes, would ensure smoother execution and better price discovery. Structured feedback from potential investors could also help address procedural or regulatory bottlenecks.

CII has recommended setting up a dedicated body with a ministerial board for strategic guidance, an advisory board of industry and legal experts for independent benchmarking, and a professional management team to handle execution, due diligence, market engagement, and regulatory coordination for privatisation programme.

Government should refrain from hiking I-T surcharge on super-rich: Experts

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government should refrain from raising income tax surcharge on the super-rich and reintroducing wealth tax in the upcoming 2026-27 Budget, as the move could prompt persons in high-income brackets to leave the country for low-tax jurisdictions, according to tax experts.

Currently, a surcharge on income tax is payable by high-income individuals with earnings above Rs 50 lakh. A 10% surcharge is levied on income between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 1 crore, 15% (Rs 1-2 crore), and 25% (Rs 2-5 crore).

Those earning above Rs 5 crore and are in the new income tax regime pay a 25% surcharge, while those under the old tax regime pay a surcharge at a 37% rate.

According to estimates by independent economists, the GST rate cut and lower income tax collections are likely to cost the exchequer around Rs 2 lakh crore in the current fiscal. Any additional source of revenue in FY27 could help the government in additional allocations towards defence and other areas.

PWC & Co LLP Partner Amit Rana said the theory that is followed in levying income tax is that there should be vertical equity, meaning the higher one earns, the higher is his/her tax liability.

"We have a pretty good slab, wherein at the highest level you pay 42%, at the lowest level you pay almost zero, even at reasonable income levels. But, when you start making it (taxation) very prohibitive, you run the risk of high-income earners wanting not to be in India, and that is possible in the world today," he said.

Rana further said the taxation of high-income individuals should be "carefully balanced" as they are the ones who create industries and generate jobs.

EY India, Tax Partner, Surabhi Marwah, also asserted that "there could be a risk" of high-net-worth individuals leaving the country for low tax jurisdictions if surcharges are high or wealth tax is reintroduced.

"Tax uncertainty and steep effective rates may play a role in decisions around capital relocation and residency. Stability and predictability in the tax regime may be as important as the rates when the objective is to retain capital and talent," Marwah added.

She said the wealth tax was abolished in 2015 because collections did not justify the administrative effort involved, and from an administrative perspective, the surcharge has generally been viewed as more efficient and less litigious than the wealth tax.

"With the government now having access to robust data trails through GST, CRS agreements and other systems, policymakers may continue to see surcharge adjustments as a relatively simpler option compared to asset-based valuation regimes," Marwah said.

Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co Partner Gouri Puri said increases in tax rates could encourage capital flight and discourage entrepreneurship and job creation. Moreover, reintroducing a wealth tax would revive concerns about administrative complexity and compliance costs.

"Capital flight is a genuine risk since mobile families can re-domicile to other jurisdictions with lower rates. There is always global competition to keep tax regimes investor-friendly, and harsher taxes in India may discourage investment and push capital away," Puri added.

Deloitte India Partner Alok Agrawal said in Budget 2023, the government cut the highest surcharge rate for individuals with income above Rs 5 crore from 37% to 25%. This reduction brought down the maximum marginal tax rate for such taxpayers from about 42.7% to 39%.

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

Groww
(ID: GROWW)
Upside +16%**
BUY
Last close ₹159
Target: ₹185*

Titan
(ID: TITAN)
Upside +19%**
BUY
Last close ₹4,205
Target: ₹5,000*

Bikaji
(ID: BIKAJI)
Upside +28%**
BUY
Last close ₹702
Target: ₹900*

Reliance
(ID: RELIANCE)
Upside +20%**
BUY
Last close ₹1,476
Target: ₹1,765*

APL Apollo Tubes
(ID: APLAPOLLO)
Upside +19%**
BUY
Last close ₹1,893
Target: ₹2,260*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

When the taxman learned to nudge

For many Indians, an email or notice from the Income Tax Department once triggered instant anxiety. The department was often seen as secretive and punitive, collecting information quietly from banks, property registrars, and credit card companies, only to confront taxpayers much later during scrutiny. The interaction felt less like a conversation and more like an interrogation.

That image is now changing. Over the past few years, the Income Tax Department has quietly reinvented how it engages with taxpayers. Instead of operating like a policing authority, it has begun behaving more like a facilitator, encouraging people to comply voluntarily rather than forcing them through fear and penalties.

From secrecy to transparency

The first visible shift came when the department started sharing information openly with taxpayers. Through the compliance tab on the income tax portal, individuals could now see high-value transactions reported in their name and were asked to confirm or explain them. What was once hidden was now visible.

This transparency deepened with the introduction of the Annual Information Statement (AIS). AIS presents a consolidated view of a taxpayer's financial life such as salary, interest income, share transactions, property dealings, foreign remittances and more. Importantly, taxpayers and tax officers now look at the same information. This has reduced surprises, misunderstandings, and unintentional omissions.

For ordinary citizens, this meant fewer shocks and more confidence while filing returns. For the department, it meant cleaner data and fewer disputes.

Reminders, not reprimands

Another significant change has been in communication. Instead of waiting for deadlines to pass and then initiating action, the department now sends timely reminders through emails and SMS about filing, revising, or correcting returns. These messages are advisory in nature, not threatening.

This shift recognises a simple reality: most people don't default deliberately.

B E KUMAR PRASAD
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT & PARTNER, BALAKRISHNA AND CO

They forget, misunderstand, or make mistakes. A gentle reminder before the deadline works far better than a penalty notice after it.

A chance to correct the past

Perhaps the most taxpayer-friendly reform has been the introduction of the Updated Return facility. Under this mechanism, taxpayers can voluntarily correct their returns within 48 months from the end of the relevant assessment year.

Earlier, such corrections often led to penalties, litigation, or prolonged correspondence. Now, the message is clear: if you missed something, come forward and fix it. The response has been encouraging, with lakhs of taxpayers using this option to regularise their tax affairs, resulting in higher collections without coercion.

The art of the nudge

The latest step in this evolving approach is the NUDGE initiative, short for Non-intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable. Drawing from behavioural economics, the idea is simple: when data suggests a possible mismatch or omission, the department gently nudges the taxpayer to review and correct it.

Whether it relates to foreign assets, high-value transactions, or deductions claimed, the department now prefers nudging before enforcing. The tone is no longer accusatory. It simply says: "Please review your information and act if required."

This marks a profound shift from suspicion to trust. The results are telling. Voluntary disclosures have increased, litigation has reduced, and tax collections have improved, without adopting a punishing mindset. Honest taxpayers feel respected, while the department benefits from higher compliance at lower administrative cost.

The Income Tax Department, once known for its stern image, is gradually redefining itself as a partner in compliance rather than an enforcer of penalties. If this approach continues, it may well become one of the most meaningful governance reforms in recent times, benefiting taxpayers, the exchequer, and the country as a whole.

Banks move CIC against disclosure of information

NEW DELHI, PTI: Four major banks — Bank of Baroda, RBL Bank, YES Bank and State Bank of India — have approached the CIC objecting to the disclosure of information such as the list of defaulters and NPAs, penalties and inspection reports, even as the RBI termed the records "liable to be disclosed" under the RTI Act.

RTI applicants Dheeraj Mishra, Vathiraj, Girish Mittal and Radha Raman Tiwari had filed separate applications with the RBI, seeking information, such as the top-100 NPAs, willful defaulters of YES Bank, the inspection report of the SBI and RBL, and documents relating to a Rs 4.34 crore monetary penalty imposed following statutory inspection findings from the Bank of Baroda, respectively, among others.

These banks appealed before the Central Information Commission, after the bankers' bank found that the information sought by RTI applicants could be disclosed under the provisions of the Act.

Information Commissioner Khushwant Singh Sethi referred the matter to a larger bench of the CIC to adjudicate on the issues raised by the banks.

In a series of interim orders, Sethi noted that similar matters were earlier heard by a double bench. Consequently, all cases have been referred to the Chief Information Commissioner for consideration by a larger bench, with disclosure stayed till final decisions are issued.

The outcome of these proceedings is expected to have a far-reaching impact on banking transparency, depositor rights and regulatory accountability.

India tightens crypto noose: Live selfies, geo-tagging must

NEW DELHI, PTI: To eliminate illegal activity in the digital asset market, the India's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has unveiled stringent new Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) protocols for cryptocurrency exchanges, including mandatory liveness detection and geographical tracking during the onboarding process.

The updated guidelines, issued on January 8, classify crypto exchanges as Virtual Digital Asset (VDA) service providers, who will have to do more than just allow simple document uploads.

Under the rules, users must take a "live selfie" using software that verifies their presence, typically through eye-blinking or head movement. The measure helps prevent the use of static photos or deepfakes.

Exchanges must record the exact latitude and longitude, date, timestamp, and IP address from which a user starts creating an account.

The "penny-drop" method, which involves processing a nominal Re 1 transaction to confirm that the bank account is active and belongs to the registrant, is required.

In addition to a PAN, users must provide a secondary ID such as Passport, Aadhaar or Voter ID, along with an OTP verification for the email ID and phone number. The FIU, which operates under the Finance Ministry, is taking a tough stance against tools meant to conceal the paper trail of crypto wealth. The new norms aim to "strongly discourage" Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs) and Initial Token Offerings (ITOs) due to their lack of economic justification and high risk.

Q3 IT RESULTS

Seasonal softness expected to prevail; demand to stay steady

Firms positioning themselves for early AI-led services demand

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Starting with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), IT services companies will report their third quarter earnings this week. Despite volatile macro conditions, brokerages expect IT firms to report a decent show in terms of sales.

India's largest IT services firm TCS and HCLTech will kick off the earnings season on January 12. Infosys and Wipro will post their Q3 earnings on January 14 and 16, respectively. Brokerages expect large-caps IT firms to report quarter-on-quarter constant currency (CC) growth in the range of 0.3-2.3%.

"The seasonally weak quarter will see the impact of furloughs, fewer working days, and cautious discretionary spending weighing on growth, with demand conditions largely unchanged from the previous quarter. Revenue momentum will be driven mainly by existing deal ramp-ups, while new client decision-making remains limited. On the positive side, the quarter is expected to see cross-currency tailwinds due to a weaker rupee," UnearthInsight CEO and Founder Gaurav Vasu said.

He added that at an industry level, EBIT margins are expected to remain in the 15-16% range, with some pressure from furlough-led utilisation softness and wage hikes, partly offset by cost optimisation efforts.

"From a sector lens, BFSI and healthcare are likely to be relative growth drivers, while manufacturing, telecom, and automotive may continue to lag. Geographically, Europe and APAC are expected to show better momentum, while the US remains soft," Vasu said.

In the second quarter of this fiscal year, Infosys raised the lower end of FY26 revenue guidance to 2-3% in constant currency from the earlier forecast of 1-3%.

Motilal Oswal in its December 2025 Results Preview said it is expecting seasonal furloughs to weigh on growth in the third quarter.

"We think that the markets are likely to look through this seasonality and instead focus on signals around the demand environment from client budgeting for CY26. Amid macro-tariff uncertainty and a new tech cycle, we believe clients remain cautious on committing incremental spending to large programs. As a result, we expect demand to stay steady, at best marginally incremental, until Jan '26 as planning cycles reset and budgets firm up," it said.

According to the brokerage firm, midcaps are expected to outperform once again with a growth range of -2.5-3.5%. It pointed out that enterprises should gradually move from AI pilots toward scaled deployments as the year progresses, supporting deal pipeline stability, improving TCV (total contract value), and higher activity in application modernisation, data engineering, and AI integration-led work.

It also added that companies are positioning themselves for early AI-led services demand, as early signs of AI strategy formation are emerging, with IT companies investing in AI-led capabilities through acquisitions and partnerships. TCS recently signed an agreement to acquire Coastal Cloud, a Salesforce Summit partner that specialises in Salesforce Consulting for an all-cash consideration of $700 million. The company also acquired 100% stake in ListEngage, a leading Salesforce Summit partner.

Equirus Securities expects top-6 large IT companies to report CC $ sales growth of 0.2% to 2.3% quarter-on-quarter in the third quarter. It expects Infosys to guide for 2.5-3.0% CC growth in US$ sales in FY26E. For HCLTech, it expects to guide for 4.25% to 5.00% CC growth in Services Sales.

Equirus Securities expects material q-o-q jump in large deal TCV for Infosys, given mega deal win announcement in October 2025.

Sector preview

- TCS' US$ revenue is expected to grow q-o-q by 1.0% in CC terms
- Infosys to guide for 2.5-3.0% CC growth in US$ sales in FY26E vs current guidance of 2-3%
- HCLTech to guide for CC US$ Services Sales growth guidance of 4.25-5.00% for FY26E vs current guidance of 4-5% growth
- LTIMindtree's US$ revenue is to grow by 2.3% q-o-q
- Equirus Securities expects Wipro to guide for a growth of 1.5% to 3.5% q-o-q in IT Services' $ sales in CC terms for Q4FY26E

WEEK AHEAD

Markets likely to move cautiously

Markets corrected sharply last week after touching record highs

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA

Indian equities are expected to trade with a cautious undertone amid limited near-term clarity on potential punitive tariffs by US. This has weighed on FII sentiments who have intensified their selling over the last few days. In this volatile environment, we suggest investors to focus on domestic themes and avoid export-oriented sectors.

Sentiment remains fragile amid reports of a proposed US bill that could allow punitive tariffs of up to 500% on countries purchasing Russian oil. While the proposal has not been enacted, it has added to geopolitical and trade-related uncertainty.

Key economic data due in the upcoming week include US non-farm payrolls, Unemployment Rate and initial jobless claims, India CPI and WPI inflation prints, US CPI & PPI data and UK GDP.

In the week gone by, markets corrected sharply after touching record highs. The Nifty 50 hit an all-time high of 26,373 on January 5, 2026 but ended the week down -2.5%. Broader markets also saw profit booking, with Midcap and Smallcap indices declining by -2.6% & -3.1% respectively. Volatility intensified amid global uncertainties around trade policy and geopolitical developments, leading to broad-based selling pressure across sectors.

Foreign Institutional Investor outflows intensified, with cumulative selling of over Rs 5,000 crore (until Thursday), a large part of which—around 3,300 crore—was seen in a single session, highlighting the sharp acceleration in selling pressure in recent days.

Sectorally, Oil & Gas (-5.8%), Energy (-5.1%), Infrastructure (-4.7%), Capital Goods (-3.4%) and Metals (-2.9%) emerged as the worst performers, while Consumer Durables (+1%) and Defence (+1.4%) outperformed amid selective buying.

The sharp correction in Oil & Gas stocks was driven by global geopolitical developments and policy concerns. News related to US action in Venezuela, along with proposals to impose steep tariffs on countries buying Russian oil, triggered heavy selling in large energy stocks including Reliance Industries. Additionally, concerns around a potential excise duty hike in the upcoming Union Budget led to profit booking, even as global crude prices softened.

Capital Goods stocks declined amid reports that the Indian Finance Ministry may ease restrictions on Chinese firms bidding for government contracts. While the proposed move aims to improve competition, lower project costs and accelerate execution in infrastructure-heavy segments, it has raised near-term concerns around heightened competition for domestic players.

In contrast, Defence stocks gained during the week, supported by elevated global geopolitical tensions and expectations of increased defence preparedness and spending. Banking stocks remained resilient, with Bank Nifty touching a fresh all-time high of 60,437 on January 5, 2026, supported by strong quarterly business updates from both public and private sector banks. Improved festive-season credit demand, benefits from tax cuts aiding consumption, stable margins, controlled credit costs and improving asset quality trends helped sustain investor confidence, keeping the near-to-medium-term outlook constructive.

This week could see heightened volatility, with geopolitical concerns acting as an overhang, while Q3 earnings announcements may provide some support.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited)

DH INTERVIEW

'Critical to leave GST on all electric vehicles untouched'

BMW Group India delivered record annual sales in 2025 at 18,001 units, growing over 14%, well above the luxury segment's average 9% growth. Despite GST rate changes, geopolitical churn and currency-led import pressures, the German auto giant remains focused on growing India's luxury car market, with a sharp emphasis on electric vehicles, while navigating policy changes and evolving customer behaviour. BMW Group India President and CEO **Hardeep Singh Brar** speaks to *DH's* **Hrithik Kiran Bagade**.

Edited excerpts.

How was 2025 for BMW, and the Indian luxury car segment in general?

The luxury car segment did much better than the mass segment till August. The GST rate cut benefited the mass segment more, while the luxury segment remained largely unchanged. BMW, however, performed better. Until August, we were growing at about 13%, and in the fourth quarter we grew 17%, with sales of 6,023 cars. Overall, we clocked our highest-ever sales of 18,001 units, growing 14%.

Certain models performed exceptionally well, especially the electric iX1. Customers are increasingly seeking lower cost of ownership, and EVs fit that bill. Many have shifted from diesel to electric, with demand for EVs rising while diesel demand is diminishing. From an economic perspective, India has a large fuel import bill, and e-mobility helps. From the consumer viewpoint too, EVs are easy on the pocket due to lower running costs. In that sense, we are the first luxury OEM in India to sell over 5,000 EVs.

You grew 200% in EV sales last year. What did you do differently?

The luxury segment in India still accounts for just about 1% of the total market. Someone has to take responsibility to grow that share, and we have done that. The iX1 is positioned at the entry level at around Rs 50 lakh, priced at par with petrol and diesel cars in that range. For the first time, a carmaker competitively priced its EV, and it worked in our favour. We also offer over 500-km range, and the design has been well-received. Out of 18,001 total sales, 3,753 were EVs, compared with 1,249 EVs in 2024.

What is the strategy for your sustainable mobility push?

We will launch three more EVs this year as part of a broader product offensive comprising 27 offerings — six new models, four facelifts and 17 variants. However, triple-digit growth may not be possible going forward, as that would require moving to lower price points, which is not the plan currently.

Frankly, we didn't anticipate this level of demand. We initially expected to sell about 200 units a month, but we are now doing around 300 — a 50% jump. Demand exists, but supply constraints limit further growth. Since we opened with a strong EV pipeline, we are now focused on improving supply. Going ahead, we expect to stabilise at double-digit growth. We will remain flexible and respond to customer demand rather than pre-deciding what to sell.

Do geopolitical tensions pose supply-chain challenges for BMW in India?

What impacts us most is the depreciation of the rupee against the euro. We import parts, and currency movements directly affect costs. With the rupee weakening against both the dollar and euro, imports become more expensive.

Currently, we manage about 50% localisation. While we operate SKD, CKD and CBU models, nearly 95% of our cars are assembled at the Chennai plant. We are working to improve localisation every year, but without compromising on component quality.

The GST on EVs is 5%. What do you expect from government policy?

There is recurring discussion around increasing GST on EVs. It is critical that EVs — in both mass and luxury segments — remain untouched. A country's development is also reflected in the size of its luxury car market. In China, luxury cars account for 15% of the market; in other developed nations, 10-15%. In India, it's just 1%.

Even today, EV manufacturing costs are 40-50% higher than ICE vehicles. This gap is offset by a GST difference of about 35%, which is why EVs still cost 10-15% more. If this benefit is withdrawn, it could severely impact the EV segment.

Hardeep Singh Brar

EVs currently account for just 4% of India's market, growing only about 1% annually, compared with 40% in China. India needs much faster growth, and the GST benefit is crucial.

There is also discussion around alternative powertrains like hydrogen and hybrids. The government took a clear call years ago to push EVs to reduce pollution and oil imports. Hybrids reduce emissions marginally, but EVs are zero-emission. At this nascent stage, introducing multiple powertrains could derail the EV narrative. Charging infrastructure also needs scale-up.

Are you investing in charging infrastructure?

Our customers expect a charging station every 300 km. Accordingly, we have installed 12 high-performance chargers across highways from North to South, ranging from 120 kWh to 720 kWh, enabling charging in under 20 minutes.

Will EVs remain a key focus area?

In 2024, petrol accounted for 60% of our sales, diesel 30%, and EVs around 10%. In 2025, petrol remained stable, diesel dropped to 18%, and EVs rose to 21%. EVs are a major focus. There is also some direction from the government on diesel vehicles, and consumer demand for diesel is declining. As a brand, we intend to remain flexible.

Mule accounts under security lens in Kashmir

Raids across Valley target terror-funding networks; probe widens as dozens questioned

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

ILLICIT MONEY

- Mule accounts are used to move, conceal or launder illicit funds
- Security agencies apprehend that such accounts are being used to avoid detection
- They believe that those funds are used to support logistics, recruitment, propaganda and cyber operations

Mule accounts have come under sharp security focus in Kashmir, with the Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday carrying out coordinated raids at around two dozen locations across the Valley as part of a cyber terror-funding probe, officials said.

According to officials, 15 searches were conducted in Srinagar, while the remaining raids were carried out in other districts. The operation aims to identify and disrupt financial networks suspected of facilitating terror-related activities through digital and banking platforms.

Investigators believe mule accounts — bank or digital payment accounts used to move, conceal or launder illicit funds—are being exploited by terror handlers to route money into Kashmir, particularly after sustained action against traditional hawala channels.

Security agencies apprehend that such accounts are being used to transfer funds in small amounts to avoid detection while supporting logistics, recruitment, propaganda and cyber operations.

In recent weeks, dozens of people, particularly youths, have been questioned by cyber police in Srinagar in an FIR related to mule accounts, indicating the widening scope of the investigation, sources said.

Many of those questioned were allegedly contacted through online platforms or offered small commissions for allowing their accounts or digital wallets to be used for suspicious transactions.

During Wednesday's raids, police teams seized electronic devices, bank records and digital transaction details, officials said.

The action forms part of a broader crackdown by security and investigative agencies on terror-financing networks in Jammu and Kashmir over the past several years.

Officials said the tightening of conventional funding routes has forced terror groups and their handlers to explore alternative methods, including digital payments, online wallets and proxy or mule accounts. In some cases, individuals were allegedly lured into opening bank accounts or sharing credentials in exchange for small sums, unknowingly becoming part of terror-linked financial chains.

'Indian Idol 3' winner and actor Prashant Tamang dies at 43

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prashant Tamang, who rose to fame as the winner of *Indian Idol 3* and was praised for his turn as a cold-blooded assassin in *Paatal Lok 2*, died here on Sunday following a cardiac arrest. He was 43.

Prashant Tamang

Tamang's close friend, singer Mahesh Sewa, said that the singer-actor passed away at his residence in Janak Puri.

"He (Tamang) passed away this morning around 9 am due to cardiac arrest at his residence in Delhi. He was taken to the hospital, but the doctors declared him dead on arrival. I'm shocked by his untimely demise," he said.

Tamang was born on January 4, 1983, in Darjeeling, into a Nepali-speaking Gorkha family.

Encouraged by friends, he auditioned for the reality singing show *Indian Idol* in 2007, where he went on to win the competition. Tamang's victory triggered unprecedented celebrations in the Darjeeling hills, Sikkim and parts of Nepal.

He then released his first album, *Dhanyavaad*, in 2010 and regularly performed at concerts in India and abroad.

He was most recently seen in the second season of the critically-acclaimed *Paatal Lok* where he essayed the role of Daniel Lecho, an assassin

Delhi blast: ED may attach Al Falah University campus

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Al Falah University campus in Haryana's Faridabad, which came under the scanner of investigating agencies after the Red Fort area blast, could be attached by the Enforcement Directorate under the anti-money laundering law, official sources said on Sunday.

The ED is investigating if funds for the construction of the varsity were sourced from alleged proceeds of crime, the sources told PTI.

The ED arrested Al Falah Group chairman Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui in November last year on money laundering charges linked to cheating with students of the educational institutions run by his Al Falah Trust. The probe agency claimed that the educational institutes did not have the required valid accreditation for teaching.

According to sources, a part of the "proceeds of crime" (illicit funds under the PMLA) identified in this case is suspected to have been pumped into the construction of various buildings of the university located in the Dhauj area of Faridabad.

The agency is undertaking a process to identify and value various movable and immovable assets of the Al Falah Trust, which owns all its educational institutions and the university.

Once the probe ends, an order will be issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to provisionally attach the assets found to be derived or created from the proceeds of crime, the sources said.

It is understood that the students of the university may be allowed to study uninterrupted, even after the attachment, in the interest of their academics.

The ED, while seeking the remand of Siddiqui in November from a court, had said that the university and its controlling trust, under the direction of Siddiqui, generated "proceeds of crime" of at least Rs 415.10 crore by "dishonestly" inducing students and parents to part with money on the basis of false accreditation and recognition claims.

PSLV-C62 countdown on as Isro prepares first launch of the year

SRIHARIKOTA, PTI: Isro on Sunday commenced a 22.5-hour countdown for the launch of a PSLV rocket that will place an earth observation satellite along with 14 other co-passenger satellites into orbit, marking the space agency's first launch of the year.

Undertaken by the NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), the commercial arm of Isro, the 14 other co-passenger satellites belong to domestic and overseas customers.

The lift-off of the PSLV-C62 rocket, with a lift-off mass of 260 tonnes, has been rescheduled to 10.18 hrs on January 12 from the earlier 10.17 am on Monday, Isro said.

"Yes. Countdown started at 12.48 pm. 22 hours 30 minutes duration. Launch is at 10.18 hrs tomorrow," Isro sources said on Sunday.

The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission would initially deploy the Earth Observation Satellite built by Thailand and the United Kingdom, followed by 13 other co-passenger satellites, into the sun-synchronous orbit around 17 minutes after lift-off.

Subsequently, the separation of the fourth stage of the rocket (PS4) and demonstration of the Kestrel Initial Technology Demonstrator (KID) capsule, weighing about 25 kg, belonging to a Spanish startup, are expected to take place over 2 hours after the launch.

According to Isro, scientists would restart the fourth stage of the rocket to demonstrate the KID capsule to make its reentry into the earth's atmosphere.

For this to occur, the scientists would restart the fourth stage to de-boost and enter a reentry trajectory, and this will be followed by the KID capsule separation.

Both the PS4 stage and the KID capsule (which will be the last co-passenger) will reenter the earth's atmosphere and make a splashdown in the South Pacific Ocean, Isro said.

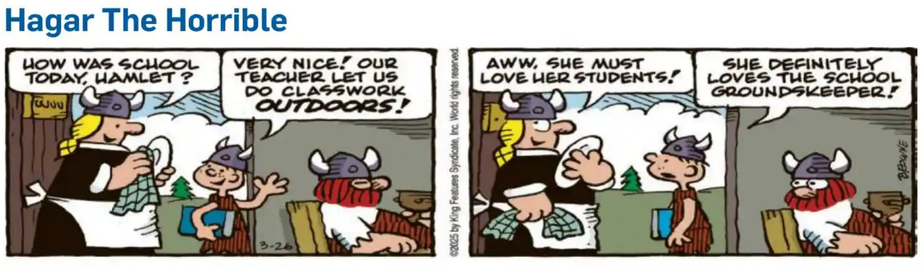
MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

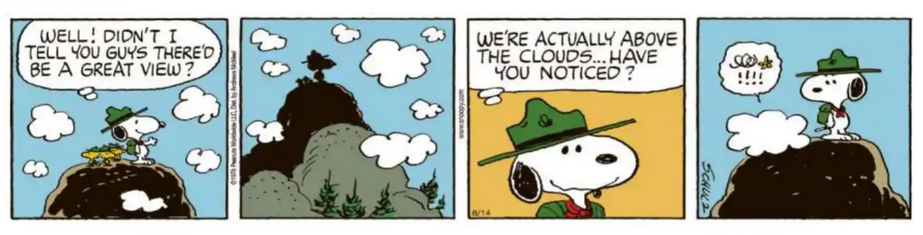
THESE DAYS A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE USING A.I. TO DECIDE ON A NEW HAIRSTYLE
REALLY?!
I LIKE THAT YOU'VE STUCK WITH YOUR OWN UNIQUE STYLE OVER THE YEARS!
MORELLI & CO. HAIR STYLISTS
OF COURSE, EVEN A.I. CAN'T IMPROVE ON PERFECTION!

Hagar The Horrible

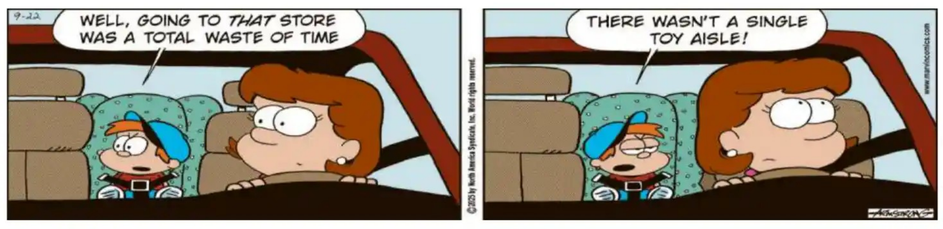

HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY, HAMLET?
VERY NICE! OUR TEACHER LET US DO CLASSWORK OUTDOORS!
AWW, SHE MUST LOVE HER STUDENTS!
SHE DEFINITELY LOVES THE SCHOOL GROUNDSKEEPER!

Beetle Bailey

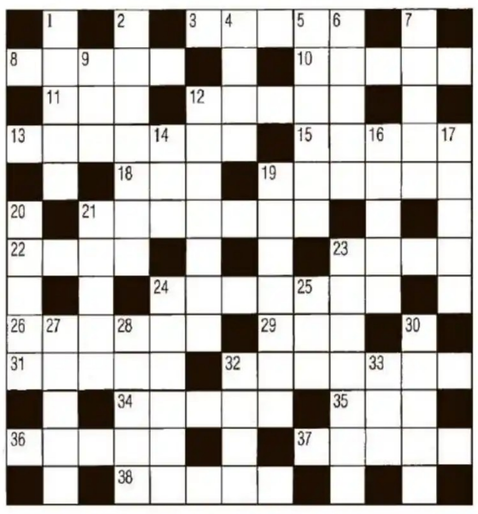
Peanuts



Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12329



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 Working parties' jokes about the Nag's Head (5)
8 Where the booze is like an anaesthetic (5)
10 Measure used by a tiler (5)
11 Cruise, perhaps (3)
12 In such regions there is cold to bear (5)
13 He has a girlish hairstyle (7)
15 The charge when one is in debt (5)
18 Dash for the ladder! (3)
19 The body Nat has to check out (6)
21 Colours available in sticks, round the corner (7)
22 Boy's name, but it's been given a "Miss" (4)
23 Beaten hollow (4)
24 Finished as a tubby little chap (7)
26 Attract significantly (6)
29 Start to take a drink (3)
31 Handle with generosity? (5)
32 Take back what one said about a pamphlet (7)
34 The Yankee, in fear, failed to stay on line (5)
35 Frequently at zero feet (3)
36 To gas about an acronym (5)
37 To pin, perhaps, with a spike (5)
38 Penelope's boy? (5)

DOWN
1 Like Odin, he rebuilt a town (5)
2 With them, can you picture great times on the river? (7)
4 A cry of "Ah!" by some boy (4)
5 Willing ways to make woodland clearings (6)
6 She's loud but alluring (5)
7 When eaten, somewhat furtively chewed? (5)
9 One going round incognito? (3)
12 Card game associated with bridge (7)
14 To the American, second class transportation? (3)
16 Revealed as bald at the back of the head? (5)
17 Eye them as canine (5)
19 Inclined to be biased (7)
20 You aren't sure to have any (5)
21 Portion of pie, the nice part (5)
23 In town, possibly rioted at the West End (7)
24 To tear round and round? (6)
25 She always has the same sort of shirt (3)
27 Wrong key for a car, alternatively? (5)
28 The boat's back again! (5)
30 In part, he shows character (5)
32 One's time off is in the balance (4)
33 Jack's back (3)

ACROSS
3 Concepts (5)
8 Rot (5)
10 Pugilist (5)
11 Steal from (3)
12 Danger (5)
13 Fish type (7)
15 Pub game (5)
18 Pistachio, say (3)
19 A colour (6)
21 Lockjaw (7)
22 Bard (4)
23 Sea mammal (4)
24 Plunders (7)
26 Fish hawk (6)
29 Beat or flog (3)
31 Short letters (5)
32 Optimistic (7)
34 Of the moon (5)
35 Domestic fuel (3)
36 Jeans fabric (5)
37 Gasps (5)
38 Halt, stop (5)

DOWN
1 Wild (5)
2 Furniture item (7)
4 Pair of performers (4)
5 Tolerates (6)
6 Of the sun (5)
7 Thaws (5)
9 Mountain pass (3)
12 Save (3,4)
14 However (3)
16 Goes up (5)
17 Vends (5)
19 Museum official (7)
20 Pinafore (5)
21 Entice (5)
23 African country (7)
24 Begin again (6)
25 Hiatus (3)
27 Not drunk (5)
28 Ancient artefact (5)
30 Expels (5)
32 Titfers (4)
33 Football supporter (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 2662

ACROSS: 1 Dubious, 5 Install, 9 Pompeii, 10 Tuition, 11 Smart, 12 Put at ease, 13 To the core, 15 Treat, 16 Shame, 18 Easygoing, 21 Analgesic, 24 Tonga, 25 Glowing, 26 Tenable, 27 Respect, 28 Hothead.

DOWN: 1 Deposit, 2 Bombast, 3 Over there, 4 Skimp, 5 In tatters, 6 Swift, 7 Animate, 8 Lenient, 14 Oversight, 15 Tight-knit, 16 Swagger, 17 At a loss, 19 Ignoble, 20 Go-ahead, 22 Guile, 23 Catch.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

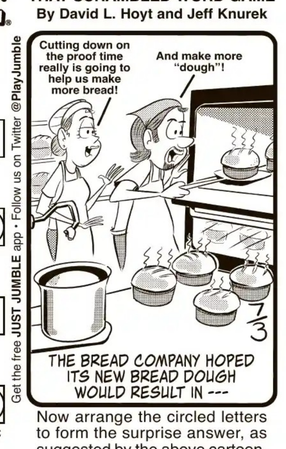
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HRSTI

RNGTA

PFIYFS

SFNIUO


Cutting down on the proof time really is going to help us make more bread!
And make more "dough"!
THE BREAD COMPANY HOPED ITS NEW BREAD DOUGH WOULD RESULT IN ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: WHIRL ALLOW BOUNTY DRIVEL
Answer: The African safari was very expensive, but seeing so many animals made it all — WORTH "WILD"

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◆SU-DO-KU-6801◆

3		4			1			7
	5							
			6					8
6			9			2	7	3
			8		7			
2	1	7			3			5
5					4			
							9	
1			2			4		6

medium

SOLUTION TO 6800

6	7	2	9	1	3	4	8	5
8	1	9	4	2	5	7	3	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	1
9	2	8	5	6	4	1	7	3
7	6	1	8	3	2	5	9	4
5	3	4	7	9	1	2	6	8
1	9	7	3	4	6	8	5	2
2	5	3	1	8	7	6	4	9
4	8	6	2	5	9	3	1	7

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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U M E E S S R — Triple Word Score
A Y F B R L L
I M A A I S L — Double Word Score
S Y O D C A I

RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 75-85
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

G R O M M E T
H U R D L E R
D A L T O N S

RACK 1 = 68
RACK 2 = 61
RACK 3 = 66
RACK 4 = 86
JUDD'S TOTAL 281

PAR SCORE 185-195

HITORI-3255

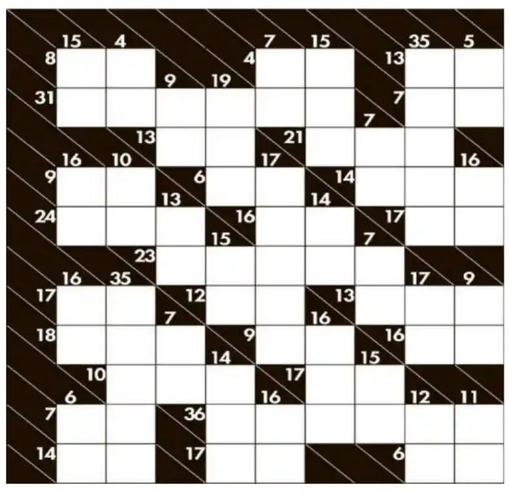
2	7	2	6	1	5	4	8
4	2	6	2	5	2	8	3
8	5	1	1	2	4	7	2
8	3	1	2	6	2	5	4
2	5	5	5	3	6	1	2
2	8	6	5	4	2	4	1
3	1	2	7	8	2	6	5
1	2	7	2	2	8	3	6

SOLUTION TO 3254

■	7	2	3	8	4	1	■
1	■	7	■	3	■	6	4
3	2	4	5	■	8	7	■
5	6	■	7	1	■	3	8
■	5	8	■	4	7	■	2
6	■	1	4	2	3	5	■
4	1	3	■	6	■	2	5
■	4	■	2	7	5	■	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

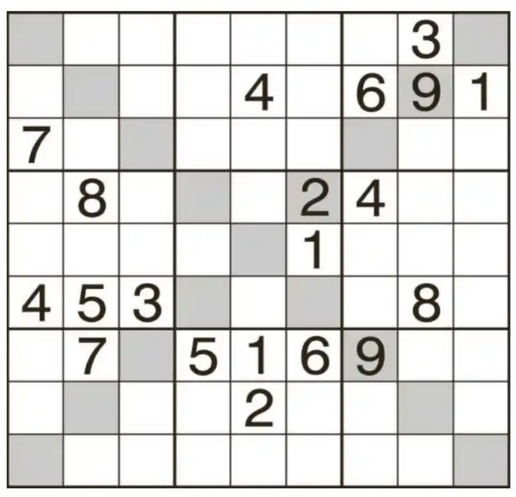
KAKURO- 3255



SOLUTION TO 3254

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3794



SOLUTION TO 3793

4	5	7	1	6	8	2	9	3
6	9	2	3	4	5	8	1	7
1	8	3	2	9	7	4	6	5
9	2	4	8	3	6	5	7	1
7	6	1	5	2	4	3	8	9
8	3	5	9	7	1	6	2	4
3	1	8	6	5	9	7	4	2
2	7	6	4	1	3	9	5	8
5	4	9	7	8	2	1	3	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Arrived wins main event

KOLKATA RESULTS

Arrived, from the stables of Adhirajsingh Jodha and ridden by Antony Raj, won the Calcutta Derby Stakes, the plum event of the Calcutta races on Sunday.

1. Alvarada Cup - 1400M: Divine Run (Daulat Chabria) A Vikrant 1; Banduk Wali (Arman Khan) 2; Dubai Prince (MS Deora) 3; Kindres Spirit (Alex Rozario) 4; Wb: Shd, 1-1/2, 2-3/4L. T: 1:26.98. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Cupid's Way

2. Desert God Cup - 2400M: Multiverse (Aditya Kauts) Nikhil Naidu 1 Vivaldi (Suraj Narredu) 2; Cascade (Varun) 3; Stormy Ocean (Azaruddin) 4; Wb: 5, 3/4, 4L. T: 2:34.78. TB: Rajender Reddy. Fav: Vivaldi.

3. Aslam Kader Memorial Cup - 1600M: Aabushan (Joydeep Paul) Hindu Singh 1; Aeropoli (Mukesh Kumar) 2; This Is Gold (Imran Chisty) 3; Golden Glow (Gaurav Singh) 4; Wb: Nk, 1-3/4L, k. T: 1:38.95. TB: Patrick Quinn. Fav: Aeropoli.

4. Hall Of Famer Cup (Div I) - 1200M: Aperol (Ms Anikta) Gaurav Singh 1; Oh My Darling (MS Deora) 2; Clever Hans (Varun) 3; Sabar (Jagadeesh) 4; Wb: 5-1/2, 1/2, 3/4L. T: 1:12.19. TB: Rajender Reddy. Fav: Aperol.

5. Hall Of Famer Cup (Div II) - 1200M: Oishika (Vikram Bacchawat) A Prakash 1; Superlative (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Lavish Gilr (MS Deora) 3; Mighty Zo (Arman Khan) 4; Wb: 4, 3/4, 1-1/4L. T: 1:12.09. TB: Shyam Habbu. Fav: Oishika.

6. Perin Dalal Alokananda Stakes - 1200M: Silver Dream (Subir Dasgupta) Suraj Narredu 1; Tetsu (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Thunderette (Imran Chisty) 3; Far Superior (Sai Kumar) 4. Wb: 2-3/4, 5-1/2, Dist. T: 1:14.40. TB: Vijay Singh. Fav: Silver Dream.

7. Hyderabad Race Club Cup - 1400M: Glorious KIng (Mrs BE Saldanah) Suraj Narredu 1; Clifford (Varun) & Knotty Blush (MS Deora) Dht 2; Rafaello (Imran Chisty) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, Dht, Shd. T: 1:24.82. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Gloriosu KIng.

8. Calcutta Derby Stakes - 2400M: Arrived (Ms Ameeta Mehra) Antony Raj 1; Superstar (A Prakash) 2; Gold Empire (Hindu Singh) 3; Heart (Imran Chisty) 4. Wb: Lnk, 1, 3L. T: 2:29.31. TB: Adhirajsingh Jodha. Fav: Arrived.

9. Black Pearl Cup (Div I) - 1400M: Amaze And Inspire (Vikram Bahhawat) A Prakash 1; Contessina (Suraj Narredu) 2; Cash N Run (Vishal Bunde) 3; Queen Of Mafia (Abhnad Asbar) 4. Not Run: Veneno. Wb: Hd, Hd, 2L. T: 1:27.72. TB: Shyam Habbu. Fav: Contessina.

10. Black Pearl Cup (Div II)- 1400M: Cashmere Silk (Koushik Datta) Vishal Bunde 1; Jimmy Bee (Arman Khan) 2; Noorie (Suraj Narredu) 3; Sea Of Charm (Tejeshwar) 4. Wb: 3/4, 1-1/2, 6-1/2. T: 1:27.11. TB: Sabeel Shariff. Fav: Noorie.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 39w; 20, 48, 13p; Fc: Rs 10,035; Q: Rs 878; Shp: Rs 177; Thp: Rs 43: Tri: Rs 27,629 & 3,947; Ex: Rs 38,772 (c/o).
II race: Rs 31w; 15, 10p; Fc: Rs 54; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 27; Tri: Rs 94 & 193; Ex: Rs 362 & 219.
III race: Rs 43w; 15, 10p; Fc: Rs 162; Q: Rs 64; Shp: Rs 23; Thp: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 135 & 83; Ex: Rs 304 & 107.
IV race: Rs 18w; 12, 25, 18p: Fc: Rs 343; Q: Rs 148; Shp: Rs 93; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 1,386 & 638; Ex: Rs 6,722 & 1,920.
V race: Rs 21w; 10, 12, 17p; Fc: Rs 71; Q: Rs 35; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 139 & 94; Ex: Rs 1,018 & 764.
VI race: Rs 16w; 14, 10p; Fc: Rs 32; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 20; Thp: Rs 21; Tri: Rs 34 & 20;
VII race: Rs 31w; 13, 174, 47p; Fc: Rs 363; Q: Rs 295; Shp: Rs 260 & 80; Tri: Rs 9,574 & 9,574; Ex: Rs 87,984.
VIII race: Rs 27w; 15, 14, 21p; Fc: Rs 79; Q: Rs 49; Shp: Rs 40; Thp: Rs 71; Tri: Rs 567 & 359; Ex: Rs 1,689 & 504.
IX race: Rs 44w; 14, 11, 14p; Fc: Rs 118; Q: Rs 45; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 169 & 123; Ex: Rs 472 & 211.
X race: Rs 54w; 16, 23, 10p; Fc: Rs 1,861; Q: Rs 371; Shp: Rs 57; Thp: Rs 51; Tri: Rs 1,297 & 251; Ex: Rs 10,097 & 10,819..
Jackpot: Rs 9,527 (96). **Runner-up:** Rs .327 (1200). **I treble:** Rs 689 (71).
II treble: Rs 130 (623).
III treble: Rs 1,177 (93).

The Panther for feature

DELHI SELECTIONS

S Nawab-trained The Panther, to be ridden by Nazil, is fancied to win the Ontario Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races to be run over a sprint at the races on Monday.
The first race starts at 2:00 pm.
1. Noverre Plate (Div I) - 1100M: Nashvegas 1, Eastern Crown 2, Ashwa Changez 3.
2. Noverre Plate (Div II) - 1100M: Havana Sky 1, Master Causeway 2, Meridia 3.
3. Golden Crest Plate - 1000M: Chieftain 1, Lemon Pie 2, Miss Irina 3.
4. Top Glade Plate - 1000M: Super speed 1, Cashier 2, Master Bomber 3.
5. Ontario Plate - 1200M: The Panther 1, Lodge Keeper 2, Kenaf 3.
6. Rafah Plate - 1400M: Heer 1, Yakutsk 2, Ashwa Pathan 3.
Day's best: Havana Sky.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

Jain University romp home

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jain University, Bengaluru blanked University of Rajasthan 3-0 in Pool D match in the All-India Inter-University Women's Badminton Championship at PES University on Sunday.

Tanya Hemanth put Jain ahead by trouncing Disha Shekhawat 21-9, 21-4 before Neysa Cariappa A and Vibha Koundiya sealed the rubber with a 21-17, 21-15 defeat of Priyanshi Saini and Bhawana Sharma. Prerna N Shet then downed Priyanshi Saini 21-13, 21-12 in the last game.

Results: Pool A: Chitkara University bt SRM Institute of Science Technology 3-0; Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, MP bt VBS Purvanchal, UP 3-0. **Pool B:** KLEF University, Guntur bt MIT World Peace University 3-0, Panjab University, Chandigarh bt University of Calcutta, WB 3-0. **Pool C:** Savitribai Phule Pune University bt KIIT University, Odisha 2-1; LPU, Jalandhar bt Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam 2-1. **Pool D:** CT University, Ludhiana bt Adamas University, WB 2-1; Jain University, Bengaluru bt University of Rajasthan 3-0.

CRICKET VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Mumbai test for red-hot Karnataka

Holders hope for middle-order upturn in quarterfinal

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

When they were tested, Karnataka's batting was brittle, and the bowling crumbled. However, they have only been occasionally put through their paces in an otherwise emphatic Vijay Hazare Trophy campaign so far.

And their run to the quarterfinals has not been about Devdutt Padikkal alone, who has set the stage afire, leading the run-scoring charts with 640 runs at an average of 91.42, including four hundreds and a fifty. An out-of-form Mayank Agarwal came into the competition with the spotlight on him and pressure creeping in. The Karnataka skipper has shut the door on the critics, scoring 399 runs with two hundreds and two fifties, underlining his hunger to perform.

While Karnataka have played with an air of invincibility in the group stage of the competition, the quarterfinal against arch-rivals Mumbai at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence on Monday could be a close one, just like their history. In the seven VHT meetings so far, Karnataka have edged Mumbai 4-3.

Defending champions Karnataka have relied heavily on their openers Padikkal and Agarwal. 228/0, 184/0, 114/0, 77/0 - these were some of the partnerships that has laid the platform for another one of their resources that they have banked on: Abhinav Manohar (227 runs at 113.50, striking at 160.99).

Apart from a few knocks, the ever-reliable Karun Nair and State's batting sensation R Smaran have looked a shadow of themselves. However, that will have to change if they are to go all the way in the competition. In the bowling department, the spin duo of Shreyas Gopal and Shreesha Achar have complemented each other well while Karnataka have consistently rotated their pace attack and have come out good.

That said, Vidwath Kaverappa, one of the mainstays, has been dropped from the squad on form, having picked just six wickets in the last nine white-ball appearances.

With Prasidh Krishna on national duty, Karnataka are expected to go with Vyshak Vijaykumar, Abhilash Shetty and Vidyadhar Patil operating in the pace department.

A depleted Mumbai are expected to come hard at Karnataka, something all the seven teams in Group A did try, but only Madhya Pradesh were successful, thanks to Sunrisers Hyderabad wrist-spinner Shivang Kumar.

The visitors, who finished second in Group C with 20 points in seven games, have fired a few warnings with the bat, including a 444 for eight in 50 overs against Goa.

In the game Punjab game, Sarfaraz Khan smashed the fastest fifty (15 balls) by an Indian in List A cricket and has been trying to knock India's selection doors in the domestic season. While none of the Mumbai batters have made the top 10 in the batting charts, they have lived on partnerships and collective contributions.

Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Suryakumar Yadav and Yashasvi Jaiswal have left the team for the New Zealand white-ball series. Mumbai also lost Shardul Thakur (11 wickets) to injury, pushing them to call Atharva Ankolekar and Mohit Avasthi for the knockouts.

Karnataka, however, start as favourites, courtesy of current form and the sheer strength on paper.

Quarters line-up: Jan 12: Karnataka vs Mumbai (CoE 1), Uttar Pradesh vs Saurashtra (CoE 2).

Strong rivals
Karnataka v Mumbai in VHT

7 Matches — 4 Karnataka, 3 Mumbai

Results in VHT 2025/26

	W	L
K'taka Batting 1st	3	1
K'taka Chasing	3	0
Mumbai Batting 1st	3	0
Mumbai Chasing	2	2

Karnataka's in-form skipper Mayank Agarwal will look to lead from the front in the Vijay Hazare Trophy quarterfinal against Mumbai at BCCI's CoE on Monday. FILE PHOTO

LIVE 9:00 AM, STAR SPORTS NETWORK

Arsenal roar past Portsmouth

Under-fire Martinelli 'tricks in 4-1 third-round win

PORTSMOUTH (UK), AFP

Gabriel Martinelli shrugged off the backlash to his clash with stricken Liverpool defender Conor Bradley to send Arsenal into the fourth round of the FA Cup with a 4-1 win at Portsmouth on Sunday.

The Championship side were dreaming of an upset against the Premier League leaders when they went in front after just three minutes through Colby Bishop.

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta had made 10 changes from the side that drew 0-0 with Liverpool on Thursday.

Martinelli drew stinging criticism for trying to push Bradley off the pitch in the closing stages after the Northern Irishman hit the ground with a serious knee injury.

Liverpool confirmed on Sunday the right-back will need surgery and will miss the rest of the season.

The Brazilian apologised to Bradley after the game and did not seen affected by the furore at Fratton Park.

Arsenal could rely on their threat from set-pieces to turn the tie around. The Pompey lead lasted only two minutes as Christian Norgaard bundled in from close range before Martinelli flicked in the first of his three goals.

Noni Madueke missed the chance to make it 3-1 from the penalty spot when the England international fired wide. Martinelli did kill the tie off early in the second period from Gabriel Jesus' cross before completing his hat-trick from another Arsenal corner.

Darren Fletcher is looking to further his case to remain in charge of Manchester United beyond Sunday with victory over Brighton later to keep alive the Red Devils' hopes of silverware this season.

Leeds needed a second half fightback to beat Derby County 3-1 and book their place in the fourth round.

The Premier League side have lost just once in their last nine games to pull clear of the relegation zone.

Results (third round): Derby: 1 (Brereton Diaz 35th) lt to Leeds: 3 (Gnonto 55th, Tanaka 59th, Justin 90th); Hull: 4 bt Blackburn: 3 via penalties, FT: 0-0; Norwich: 5 (Jurasek 15th, Makama 24th, 48th, 55th, Springett 90+2) bt Walsall: 1 (Clarke 67th); Portsmouth 1: (Bishop 3rd) lt to Arsenal: 4 (Dozzell 8 og, Martinelli 25th, 51st, 72nd); Sheffield United: 3 (Hamer 20th, Bamford 61st, Moriah-Welsh 65 og) lt to Mansfield: 4 (Reed 13th, 44th, Akins 50th, Oates 57th); Swansea: 6 (Eom 48th, Inoussa 112th) drew with West Brom: 5 (Maja 53rd, Wallace 108th) via penalties, AET 2-2; West Ham: 2 (Summerville 45+10, Castellanos 98th) bt QPR: 1 (Kone 65th) after AET.

Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli celebrates after scoring against Portsmouth. REUTERS

Sabalenka, Medvedev warm up with trophies

BRISBANE, AGENCIES

Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka has captured her second consecutive Brisbane International title, and 22nd overall, with a straight-set victory over Marta Kostyuk on Sunday.

Australian Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev warmed up for an assault on this year's opening Grand Slam in perfect fashion by winning the men's title.

The Russian world number 13 was too strong for American Brandon Nakashima and ran out a 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) winner in 96 minutes on Pat Rafter Arena for his 22nd ATP Tour title.

Medevdev broke a shell-shocked Nakashima twice in the first set and looked on course for a quick victory.

Nakashima rallied in the second to force a tiebreak but the towering Russian raced to a 5-0 lead in the breaker and the match was as good as over.

"I started pretty strong but then Brandon found his way back, saved some match points then almost got it to a third set," Medvedev said.

The Australian Open begins in Melbourne next Sunday, January 18.

"It's been a great start to the year," said Medvedev, who made the final in Brisbane in 2019. "I said then that I would try and come back and win it. I came back seven or eight years later and I'm happy to hold the trophy."

Third final in a row

It was the third year in a row Sabalanka appeared in the final and the Belarusian player looked in comfortable surroundings as she closed out a 6-4, 6-3 victory in just 1 hour and 17 minutes at Pat Rafter Arena.

The Brisbane International is a tune-up event for this year's Australian Open which begins January 18.

Kostyuk went hard early by attacking Sabalenka's second serve, clawing back an early break with sublime drop shots that briefly rattled the world's top-ranked player.

However, the Belarusian's relentless intensity and match-smarts proved decisive as she exploited the oppressive Brisbane humidity with punishing baseline rallies to clinch the opening set in 40 minutes.

Svitolina crowned

Elina Svitolina will head to the Australian Open after winning her 19th WTA Tour title Sunday at the ASB Classic in Auckland, New Zealand.

Top seed Svitolina beat seventh-seeded Wang Xinyu of China 6-3, 7-6 (8). It was the 13th-ranked Svitolina's 19th title from 24 finals appearances.

Bublik in top 10

Alexander Bublik won the Hong Kong Open in straight sets on Sunday, a victory that will propel the Kazakhstan player into the world's top 10 for the first time.

Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka (left) and Russia's Daniil Medvedev pose with their singles titles at the Brisbane International at the Pat Rafter Arena on Sunday. REUTERS/AFP

Rahil takes home Pro-Stock title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hyderabad's Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power1) finished the season with a superb double while emerging champion in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category on the concluding day of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship at the Madras International Circuit in Chennai on Sunday.

Chennai's PM Soorya (Chandra LGE Racing) ended a nine-year wait for a National title as he delivered a stunning win in the morning to pocket the championship in the Pro-Stock 200cc Open category and then cruised to third place in the next outing later in the day. Soorya's arch-rival, Bengaluru's Savion Sabu (Mad Rabbits Racing), could not present much of a challenge as he retired in Race 1 and came in fourth in Race 2.

Winners: Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open: Rider champion: Rahil Pillarisetty; **Champion team:** RACR Castrol Power1. **Pro-Stock 200cc Open (Race 1): Rider champion:** Soorya PM (Chennai, Chandra LGE Racing). **Team:** Chandra LGE Racing.
SuperStock Intermediate Up to 165cc: Rider champion: Raj Kumar. **Team:** Motul Sparks Racing.
Stock 301-400cc (Novice): Rider champion: Varun Patil (Bengaluru, Mad Rabbit Racing). **Team:** Mad Rabbit Racing.
Stock 165cc (Novice): Rider champion: Rajender Beedani (Hyderabad). **Team:** MAI.

Gritty Levante hold Espanyol

VALENCIA, AFP

Espanyol stumbled to a 1-1 draw at Levante on Sunday in La Liga, a blow to their ambitions of a top four finish.

Manolo Gonzalez's side have enjoyed a superb first half of the season and are fifth, four points behind Atletico Madrid in fourth.

Espanyol won five matches in a row before a derby defeat by leaders Barcelona last weekend, and then dropped two more points at Levante, 19th.

Carlos Romero smashed the visitors ahead in the 53rd minute but Iker Losada pulled Levante level two minutes later.

"I'd be lying if I said we're happy with the draw, we're upset," Romero told DAZN.

The draw leaves Levante four points from safety, after 17th place Mallorca lost 2-1 at Rayo Vallecano.

Villarreal eased to a 3-1 victory over Alaves on Saturday to move clear of Atletico Madrid in third in La Liga and stay in contention to win the Spanish title.

Alberto Moleiro **(in pic)**, Gerard Moreno and Georges Mikautadze struck in the second half to cut leaders Barcelona's lead to eight points, having played one fewer game than the Catalan champions.

Villarreal climbed three points ahead of Atletico and within four of second-placed Real Madrid, who have both also played an extra game. Alaves kept the hosts at bay comfortably in a first half of few clear chances, but Villarreal stepped up a gear after the interval. Playmaker Moleiro has been in sparkling form in recent weeks and it was no surprise when he opened the scoring after 49 minutes.

Moleiro brilliantly curled home his eighth goal of the season from the edge of the box when the ball dropped kindly for him.

Results: On Sunday: Rayo Vallecano: 2 (De Frutos 4th, Palazon 42nd) bt Mallorca: 1 (Muriqi 30th); Levante: 1 (Losada 55th) drew with Espanyol: 1 (Romero 53rd).
On Saturday: Real Oviedo: 1 (Chaira 64th) drew with Real Betis: 1 (Lo Celso 83rd); Villarreal: 3 (Moleiro 49th, Moreno 55th, Mikautadze 75th) bt Alaves: 1 (Martinez 85th); Girona: 1 (Vanat 44th) bt Osasuna: 0; Valencia: 1 (Pepelu 87th) drew with Elche: 1 (Diangana 75th).

Wesley wears Blitz crown

KOLKATA, PTI: American Grandmaster Wesley So showed remarkable consistency to clinch the title in the Open category with a round to spare while India's Nihal Sarin ended as runner-up in the Tata Steel Chess India Blitz chess tournament here on Sunday.

The women's section also ended with a thrilling playoff that saw another American Carissa Yip hold her nerve to lift the trophy. India's Vantika Agarwal finished runner-up.

The closing rounds of the tournament delivered relentless tension, late twists, and fitting champions in both sections.

In the Open event, Wesley So aggregated 12 points for the title while Sarin ended with 11 points. Another Indian Arjun Erigaisi ended at third spot, also with 11 points.

Wei Yi outplayed Viswanathan Anand, who ended at eighth with eight points, by calmly consolidating an extra exchange.

Amee reigns supreme in National Snooker

BENGULURU, DHNS: Amee Kamani **(in pic)** of Madhya Pradesh came up with a solid display to floor reigning IBSF World Snooker champion Anupama Ramachandran 3-1 in the final of the women's National Snooker Championship in Bahadurgarh, Haryana on Sunday.

In a clash between equals, Amee played the big points well to dethrone the reigning national champion. Although the bespectacled Anupama came into the final on the back of a brilliant break of 95 in the semis earlier in the morning, Amee upped her game a notch after the two split the first two frames.

The 33-year-old southpaw kept Anupama on a tight leash and scored whenever she got the opportunity. Amee, who defeated Keerthana Pandian of Karnataka 3-1 in a tough semifinal in the morning, rode on her experience to outplay the Tamil Nadu cueist for her seventh National snooker title.

"It feels really nice as I missed out narrowly on winning the title last year. Playing the same rival and winning is a totally different feeling," said an elated Amee. "National Championship happens once a year so it is a prestigious crown to wear," added the Indore cueist.

Results: Final: Amee Kamani (MP) bt Anupama Ramachandran (TN) 3-1 (50-33, 21-57, 75-22, 65-13).
Third-place playoff: Keerthana Pandian (Kar) bt Ishika Shah (MP) 2-0 (52-47, 65-27).
Final standings: Amee Kamani 1; Anupama Ramachandran 2; Keerthana Pandian 3; Ishika Shah 4; Aanya Patel (Guj) 5; Snenthra Babu (TN) 6; R Umadevi (Kar) 7; L Shruthi (TN) 8.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1.	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/4113/2025-26 Date : 06.01.2026 (2nd Call)	Rs.5,27,848/- / Rs.13,200/-	27-01-2026 upto 4.00 p.m.	28-01-2026 after 5.00 p.m.
2.		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/4150/2025-26 Date : 08.01.2026 (3rd Call)	Rs.12,83,117/- / Rs.32,100/-	19-01-2026 upto 4.00 p.m.	20-01-2026 after 5.00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1).

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

3.	BW & PS-2	BWSSB/EBWPS-2TE/AE/5225/2025-26 Dt: 05.01.2026	Rs.61,22,050/- / Rs.1,22,500/-	19-01-2026 upto 11.00 a.m.	20-01-2026 after 11.15 a.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (BW & PS-2).

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

4.	North East	BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO/PB/3823/2025-26 Dt: 09.01.2026	Rs.98,58,735/- / Rs.1,97,500/-	20-01-2026 upto 3.00 p.m.	21-01-2026 after 4.00 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North East).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO4960/25-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax:080 25084155)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Description	Details
Name of work	Replacement of 2 Nos 500TR capacity, Water Cooled Screw Chiller at Main Campus and Condenser Water lines at ISITE Campus, Bengaluru
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/AC/1063/ETN-72A/2025-26 Dt. 09.01.2026
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 455.70 Lakhs
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	270 days / 09 months
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 9,11,400/- (Validity for 180 days)

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Superintending Engineer(Ele), Tendering & Procurement,
Navanagar, PB Road, Hubballi-580025.
Ph: 9448277602, Fax: 0836-2324307
E-mail: seetp.hescom@gmail.com / seetp@hescom.co.in
CIN No: U31401KA2002SGCO30437

No: HESCOM/SEE(T&P)/EE-7/AEE-2/2025-26/CYS-9735 Date: 09-01-2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (E-Procurement Portal Only)

The undersigned invites tenders in two parts (Part-I:Techno-Commercial Bid and Part-II: Price Bid) through e-procurement portal for manufacture & supply of the following:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Enq. No.
1	Manufacture & supply of Polycarbonate Plastic Seals	HESCOM/2025-26/IND0093/Call-5
2	Supply of New Lorries 16T GVW BS-VI as per standard to Hubballi Zone.	HESCOM/2025-26/IND0120
3	Supply of New Lorries 16T GVW BS-VI as per standard to Belagavi Zone	HESCOM/2025-26/IND0121

For further details visit the website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on OR after **12.01.2026.**

Superintending Engineer (Ele), Tendering & Procurement HESCOM, Hubballi.

ಪಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಧಾ/ದಿಶಾ/1088/2025–26

KING KOHLI

- Virat Kohli on Sunday became the fastest player to reach 28,000 runs across formats in international cricket and the second most prolific scorer behind Sachin Tendulkar.
- Kohli got to the 28k milestone in his 624th innings while Tendulkar had reached the landmark during his 644th innings.
- Kohli (28,068) also surpassed Kumar Sangakkara (28,016) as the second-highest run scorer in international cricket across all formats.
- Tendulkar, with 34,357 runs from 782 innings, leads the charts.

Kohli says he's blessed to bring joy to people

VADODARA, PTI: India batting stalwart Virat Kohli on Sunday said his spectacular journey so far has been nothing sort of a dream come true as he is able to "give so much happiness and smile to so many people" through his sport.

"Honestly, if I look back at my whole journey, it's nothing short of a dream come true. I've always known my abilities, when I came in and I had to work for a lot more to get to the place I am today.

"God has blessed me with way too much for me to complain about anything. So I feel nothing but gratitude. I always look back at my whole journey with a lot of grace and and a lot of gratitude in my heart and I feel I feel proud about it."

Kohli, who was named Player of the Match, the 45th time in his career, gets adulation of cricket fans wherever he goes and plays. "I feel grateful that I've been put in this position. It's a blessing to be honest. You can give so much happiness to so many people by just doing what you love to do, which is play the sport you've always loved as a child.

"What what more can I ask for I'm literally living my dream and making people happy and see smiling faces."

Asked about Sunday's innings of 91-ball 93 which set up India's win, Kohli said, "If I'm being brutally honest the way I'm playing right now, I'm not thinking about the milestones at all."

CRICKET FIRST ODI

Imperious Kohli delivers

Veteran scores 93 as India down New Zealand by 4 wkts

VADODARA, PTI

Virat Kohli reigned supreme once again with a 91-ball 93 and skipper Shubman Gill hit 56 but India huffed and puffed before completing a nervy four-wicket win against New Zealand in the opening ODI of the three-match series here on Sunday.

In pursuit of 301, India were in complete control when Kohli departed in the 40th over but a flurry of wickets saw the home side going over the line with 306 for six in 49 overs.

Kohli fell a few runs short of what could have been his 54th ODI century when India needed 67 from 66 balls with seven wickets in hand. Ravindra Jadeja (4) and Shreyas Iyer (49) followed him soon in the dressing room, giving New Zealand a real chance to clinch the game.

However, KL Rahul (29 not out) put on 37 runs with Harshit Rana (29), and the remaining runs came in company of an injury-hit Washington Sundar (7 not out), aided by a few uncharacteristic dropped catches by the Kiwis towards the end.

It was Kyle Jamieson (4/41) who dragged New Zealand back in the game when all seemed lost, getting Kohli caught at mid-on to deny the India batting stalwart a deserving ton. He also cleaned up Iyer with an off-cutter and got rid of Jadeja.

Even as he fell a few runs short of a century, Kohli became the quickest to reach 28,000 runs in international cricket and now only the second behind the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, going past Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara.

New Zealand had posed an at-par 300/8 but with Kohli in such imperious form, it never was enough especially with a depleted bowling attack.

If he didn't refrain from hitting over the top early on against South Africa, Kohli pulverised the Kiwis from the moment he arrived on the crease with a flurry of fours.

There was that trademark planted front foot for a majestical on-drive to pull behind the short fine leg for a four.

And if the 23-year-old Adithya Ashok was star-struck, Kohli pummelled boundaries off the leg-spinner to make another brisk start.

There was a stroke of luck involved too. Batting on a 'different level' by his own admission, Kohli went hard on a full delivery from debutant Kristian Clarke and an inside edge missed the leg stump.

Kohli added 118 runs off 102 balls for the second wicket with Gill, and the pair went nonchalantly about their task even if no boundary was found for 52 balls at a stretch. The drought was ended by Gill when he hit one down the ground, which almost cleared the ropes. The Indian skipper took time to find his groove to bring up his 16th half-century in ODIs.

Jurel replaces injured Pant

Dhruv Jurel on Sunday replaced an injured Rishabh Pant in India's ODI squad for the three-match series against New Zealand, reports PTI from Vadodara.

Jurel, who has been in stellar form in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, has joined the squad for the series.

Pant suffered a side strain while batting in the nets on Saturday.

India's Virat Kohli was in excellent touch yet again, scoring a match-winning 93 in the opening ODI against New Zealand in Vadodara on Sunday. AFP

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND		INDIA	
Conway b Rana	56	Rohit c Bracewell b Jamieson	26
Nicholls c Rahul b Rana	62	Gill c Phillips b Ashok	56
Young c Rahul b Siraj	12	Kohli c Bracewell b Jamieson	93
Mitchell lbw Prasidh	84	Iyer b Jamieson	49
Phillips c Iyer b Kuldeep	12	Jadeja c Clarke b Jamieson	4
Hay b Prasidh	18	Rahul (not out)	29
Bracewell (run out)	16	Rana c Hay b Clarke	29
Foulkes b Siraj	1	Sundar (not out)	7
Clarke (not out)	24	Extras (LB-4, W-9)	13
Jamieson (not out)	8	**TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 49 overs) 306**	
Extras (W-7)	7		
TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 50 overs) 300			

Fall of wickets: 1-117, 2-126, 3-146, 4-170, 5-198, 6-237, 7-239, 8-281.

Bowling: Siraj 8-0-40-2, Rana 10-0-65-2, Sundar 5-0-27-0, Prasidh 8-0-46-2, Kuldeep 9-0-52-1, Jadeja 9-0-56-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-157, 3-234, 4-239, 5-242, 6-279. **Bowling:** Jamieson 10-1-41-4, Foulkes 10-0-49-0, Ashok 6-0-55-1, Clarke 10-0-73-1, Bracewell 8-0-56-0, Phillips 4-0-21-0, Mitchell 1-0-7-0.

Result: India won by 4 wkts. **Series:** India lead 3-match series 1-0. **PoM:** Virat Kohli. **Second ODI:** Jan 14 (Rajkot)

Deadly Devine stands tall for GG

Kiwi stars in thrilling 4-run win over Delhi Capitals

NAVI MUMBAI, PTI

Nandini Sharma's maiden hat-trick went in vain as Sophie Devine starred with a breathtaking 95 and a superb final over under pressure to steer Gujarat Giants to a thrilling four-run win off the last ball over Delhi Capitals in a Women's Premier League match here on Sunday.

This was Gujarat Giants' second win on the trot, while DC slipped to their second loss.

Sent in to bat, Giants opener Devine smashed seven fours and eight sixes in her 42-ball knock, adding 94 runs for the opening wicket with Beth Mooney (19) to set the platform.

Skipper Ashleigh Gardner kept the momentum going with a brisk 49 off 26 balls, but Nandini turned the tide with remarkable figures of 5 for 33, including a hat-trick, as Gujarat were bowled out for 209.

Chasing a stiff target, opener Lizelle Lee struck a scintillating 86 off 54 balls, studded with 12 fours and three sixes. She put on 41 runs with Shafali Verma (14) before adding 90 off 55 balls with Laura Wolvaardt (77 off 38) to keep Delhi firmly in the hunt.

Once Lee was dismissed by Kashvee Gautam (1/48) in the 15th over, Rajeshwari Gayakwad removed Chinelle Henry (7) to leave Delhi at 146 for three.

Needing 64 off the last 25 balls, skipper Jemimah Rodrigues (15) joined Wolvaardt as the pair plundered 58 runs in 23 balls to bring the equation down to seven off the final five deliveries.

Devine then returned to the spotlight, dismissing both batters and conceding just two runs in the final over to seal a dramatic win.

Brief scores: Gujarat Giants: 209 all out in 20 overs (Sophie Devine 95, Ashleigh Gardner 49; Chinelle Henry 2-43, Nandani Sharma 5-33, Shree Charani 2-42) bt Delhi Capitals: 205/5 in 20 overs (Lizelle Lee 86, Laura Wolvaardt 77; Sophie Devine 2-21, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2-34) by 4 runs.

PoM: Sophie Devine

Gujarat Giants' Sophie Devine smashed a sensational 42-ball 95 against Delhi Capitals on Sunday. AFP FILE PHOTO

RCB look to build on gains

NAVI MUMBAI, PTI

Having come through a trial by fire in their opening game against Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bengaluru will look to build on those gains when they take on a star-studded UP Warriorz in the WPL here on Monday.

The Smriti Mandhana-led RCB, the 2024 champions, pulled off an astonishing three-wicket win against MI just on Friday, leaving Harmanpreet Kaur nonplussed, while South African stalwart Nadine de Klerk basked in the glory of a fine all-round showing, sealing the victory with the winning runs off the last ball of the innings.

While Mumbai Indians bounced back quickly with an assertive win over Delhi Capitals in their second game on Saturday, the hurt — and the memory of losing off the last ball when victory was virtually sealed — is likely to linger with them for the rest of the season.

But for Mandhana and RCB, it was a moment to cherish, and they will hope that de Klerk -- who scored an unbeaten 63 and picked up four wickets -- can recreate a similar performance against UP Warriorz.

Mandhana would also want her top-order batters, including herself, to get among the runs, given that de Klerk was the lone standout in the previous match while the rest endured below-par outings.

The top five batters — Grace Harris, Mandhana, Dayalan Hemalatha, Richa Ghosh and Radha Yadav — will need to step up, while in the bowling department much more will be expected from the likes of Arundhati Reddy, Shreyanka Patil and Radha, who conceded the most runs against MI.

UP Warriorz, too, had their share of disappointments, none more glaring than all-rounder Deepti Sharma, the costliest Indian buy at Rs 3.2 crore in the WPL auction.

She endured a forgettable outing against Gujarat Giants in a day game on Saturday, as her team went down by 10 runs, with the star cricketer finishing wicketless and scoring just one run in the chase of a daunting 207.

UP Warriorz's new skipper Meg Lanning would like her ace all-rounder to quickly find her rhythm and will also expect wholesome contributions from opener Kiran Navgire and Harleen Deol at the top.

RCB will look to ride their momemtum when they meet UP Warriorz in Navi Mumbai on Monday. PTI

LIVE 7:30 PM STAR SPORTS NETWORK

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's Premier League: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs UP Warriorz **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

Vijay Hazare Trophy quarterfinals: Karnataka vs Mumbai, Uttar Pradesh vs Saurashtra **(both 9:00 am)**, **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel**, **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

FA Cup: Liverpool vs Barnsley **(1:15 am, Tuesday)**. Live on **Star Sports Network**.

HOCKEY

HIL: SG Pipers vs Hyderabad Toofans **(5:00 pm)**, HIL GC vs. Tamil Nadu Dragons **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**.

AIFF deadline for ISL format and venues today

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

With some of the top-tier clubs sweating over financial conditions for the next month's Indian Super League, including one club seeking further time before they agree to play for the much-delayed season, the All Indian Football Federation (AIFF) has given time till 12 pm on Monday to confirm.

The deadline is also the same when all participating clubs have been asked to confirm their venues and format for the season, along with the deposit receipt of the participation fee for the season.

In a letter to all the clubs, the AIFF reiterated that it will organise the ISL with a proposed budget of approximately Rs 24.26 crore, with an initial contribution of Rs 9.77 crore by the federation, while the clubs will contribute Rs 1 crore each.

One of the ISL clubs is yet to confirm their participation after conditionally agreeing earlier and must confirm its participation today.

Earlier Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that the ISL will begin on February 14 while all 14 clubs have agreed to play in the tournament.

However, *DH* earlier reported that some of the clubs were strong-armed into agreeing the 'take it or leave it' offer.

One of the clubs, under its financial struggles, has yet to agree to play and is running against time to confirm while some of them are looking at cost-cutting measures to get through the season with commercial partners, including broadcasters, yet to be confirmed.

This delayed the confirmation on the number of matches to be played this season (91 matches if all 14 clubs play in a single-leg home and away format), leading to further delay in AIFF's plan for the season, including sending a letter to Asian football body (AFC) for exemption from playing the minimum number of matches in a season to qualify for continental events (earlier to be sent on January 7).

AIFF, in its letter, has indicated that no further steps -- including the commercial partners -- are possible without the confirmation of the venues and format for the season.

Once the clubs confirm those, the body will start working on the fixtures, share the drafts of the framework for the governance of ISL; tender for a new commercial partner (to be published by January 14 and its onboarding by February 5)

MARUTI SUZUKI
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